

Borrowing Authority

create more wealth by stimulating the private sector. In other words, this would create greater wealth, putting people in higher tax brackets and the government would have more revenue. If the money is needed, and it is the desire of the government to have its citizens raise more money, I can only say that this government and its policies must be condemned as a dismal failure.

The automobile industry of southern Ontario is in its weakened position today because the government did not have the courage of its convictions, following 1973, to move more closely to a reasonable world oil price.

We have heard various myths that somehow OPEC has set an artificial price. Certainly the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) would have people believe that OPEC has caused world inflation, but somehow he fails to mention to Canadians that Australia, Norway, Great Britain, the United States, and a list of other countries are all at the world commodity price for oil. In fact, some of them are even higher than the world price, such as Mexico, and are not members of OPEC. Another fact that should be borne in mind is that OPEC controls only 26 per cent of petroleum production in the world today.

The Japanese import all of their energy, be it uranium, coal, wood, oil, natural gas or whatever. In 1973 Japan thrived with reasonable world oil prices. Their automotive industry is thriving in the world today. By choice our government tried to protect industries, for example, by allowing Chrysler to continue to build its 14 foot-long cars. This rests as an albatross on the necks of Liberal Members of Parliament. Through their phony energy policies, they caused the people of southern Ontario to be in a position today where they are crying out for job opportunities. They practised a policy for politics, not for reasonable economic conditions which world conditions were dictating at the time. If we compare our situation to that of the Japanese in a time of a world energy upsurge in price we will note they have moved to a world leadership position in the automotive industry. We in North America, particularly in Canada, because of a lack of wisdom, have virtually destroyed an industry. Had we protected that industry with reasonable economic policies, we would today be in a position of not having to borrow more and more money from the foreign trough.

Another myth perpetuated by the Liberal government today is that somehow the imported oil which comes to Canada is brought here for Canadians at below the world price. That is just not the case. Imported oil is at the world price. It does not matter if gasoline is being sold for less than the world price at the pumps; imported oil is purchased at the world price. If the government is not taking it out of ones pocket at the pumps, it is being taken out of his pocket, even though he may not see it go. They cannot bring \$38 or \$40 per barrel oil into the country and sell it cheaper at the pump, then charge the person paying taxes an additional amount and then try to convince him that somehow he got a deal because it was below the world price.

We in this nation had the benefit of one strong industry, the petroleum industry. It was one industry upon which we could have built and tremendously accelerated other industries of the country. I should like to talk today specifically about the enormous advantages to the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, had this foolish government not gone forward with its National Energy Program. This program has virtually destroyed the potential for development all across the country. Had it not been adopted I suggest the government would not be requesting the authority to borrow \$14 billion today. The National Energy Program is destroying energy potential. It will cost billions of dollars in lost wealth that is simply drifting across the border into the United States, into the northern part of South America and into the Middle East. Literally it will cost us hundreds of thousands of jobs in Canada.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has now spent more time in the Middle East than in the province of Alberta. He was over there dancing in the tents for 40 days and 40 nights, talking about \$40 per barrel oil. We are not really willing to negotiate above \$17.75 a barrel for oil in Canada. The fact of the matter is we are looking at considerably more than that, for all the new oils which will be required in the future, be it in situ, heavy oil, tar sands, north shore, off slope or the offshore oil of Newfoundland. The light, sweet, pump crude of days gone by, and with only eight years of supply left it is rapidly running out. If we look at what is left in those wells which would come from enhanced recovery we are again looking at a much more expensive investment. The government's reaction to this, for mythical reasons that I cannot comprehend, is to use the phrase: "Canadianize the oil industry". That is a nice cliché, but after having them do the work they did we are now trying to make these oil companies the bad guys in the eyes of Canadians. The truth of the matter is that the oil companies have created more wealth in this country than any other group of companies, or government initiative. What the government is really saying is that it is not Canadianizing the industry but nationalizing it. It will take the industry and put it under government directorship.

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As a person from western Canada, and as one associated with a province which is in the field of oil production, it makes me livid that members of the government party take the view that somehow there is something clandestine about the oil industry and we must nationalize it. In effect, the government is telling Canadians there is something terribly wrong with the multinationals who are operating in western Canada. But here in central Canada the Chrysler Corporation receives \$240 million in guaranteed loans, and it is a multinational corporation. Similarly in the past few days the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray) struck a deal with Massey-Ferguson which left that corporation with the feeling that it, too, was blessed multinational. What a "Canadian" multinational is should be put of its employee dollar investment is outside of this country. In short, what you have is a government which is trying to nationalize western Canada.