

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, November 27, 1980

The House met at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION ACT

PETITION TO REVOKE PROCLAMATION

The House resumed from Wednesday, November 26, 1980, consideration of the motion of Mr. Waddell:

That the proclamation laid before the House on Wednesday, November 12, 1980, pursuant to subsection 52(3) of the Petroleum Administration Act, as proclaimed in PC 1980-2917, be revoked.

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, I rise to participate in this debate on the invocation of the Petroleum Administration Act. I rise with a sense of *déjà vu* or, perhaps more accurately, with the realization that I am reliving a nightmare we have already experienced once before in this country. When the Petroleum Administration Act was first introduced in April, 1974, my party and I were adamantly opposed to it. In our view, the passage of this act would negate realistic negotiations between Ottawa and the producing provinces since the government in Ottawa knew it would never have to negotiate with the give and take implied, because Ottawa would have the hammer. We fought this act as vigorously as we could, and we fought it alone. But the Liberal government with its majority and with the help of its NDP bedmates, of course, prevailed.

An hon. Member: Not with the Tory separatists.

Mr. Andre: The battle was a total rout because after many weeks and months we were able to gain the inclusion of the sections which allow ten members to bring about the debate that we now have. We gained that amendment without New Democratic Party help. The New Democratic Party approved the bill but it did not want the bill to be used, which is just like saying that it is in favour of the fox guarding the hen house but it does not want the fox to eat the chickens. Is that hypocritical? I say it is at least hypocritical. But there was worse to come.

The New Democratic Party energy critic, the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell), was bordering on McCarthyism in some of his remarks which were directed at the hon. member for Capilano (Mr. Huntington). The late U.S. Senator, Joseph McCarthy, to whom that infamous phrase is not contributed, used to destroy reputations by making the accusation, "Why do you not stand up here now

and state categorically that you are not a member of the communist party?" He knew full well that it would plant doubts in a person's mind. That is exactly what the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway is doing in asking the hon. member for Capilano to state that he is not a separatist. The hon. member for Capilano does not have to prove to the hon. member, or to anyone, that he is a Canadian. He fought for this country in the war. That cheap McCarthyism is below the dignity of the New Democratic Party we used to know from the past.

Mr. Kempling: Say it outside.

Mr. Andre: Character and integrity are not words one would use to describe the current New Democratic Party caucus. Perhaps that is why they are such comfortable bedmates of the group opposite. If there is one single reason behind the current energy crisis, it has to do with the lack of integrity and honesty shown by Liberal governments over the last seven years.

It is seldom possible to point with accuracy to the genesis of a public issue, but in this case it is possible. Very specifically, we can go back to July, 1973, when the then minister of energy, the Hon. Donald Macdonald, and his deputy minister, now Senator Jack Austin, tabled phase 1 of "An Energy Policy for Canada". That was July 7, 1973. They stated on page 9: "No national energy policy can be contemplated without the fullest of intergovernmental consultation and consensus." At page 58, they said, "That there can be no effective set of national policies developed without the participation of the provincial governments is readily apparent." That was the position of the government.

● (2010)

About a week later they held the Western Economic Opportunities Conference. All kinds of promises were made about consultation, listening to the west and helping western industrial development. Six weeks later, because the then leader of the NDP, David Lewis, said, "Do something about inflation or I will get out of bed and no longer support you," on September 4 they imposed a price freeze on crude oil. That was six weeks after they promised there would be no such thing in their energy policy.

On September 13, 1973, the Trudeau Liberal government announced a 43-cent. export tax on each barrel of oil because American prices were going up. Therefore Premier Blakeney and Premier Lougheed reacted with some anger and concern. Both changed the royalties in their provinces.

In November Ottawa raised the export tax to \$1.90. During that time, as *Hansard* will show, we were told not to worry, they were just collecting this to keep the price differential