

*Energy*

If this government can take over the oil companies—members opposite look astounded when I say that this government is placing into public ownership private corporations. They have no reason to be surprised. I have no doubt in my mind that this government is capable of nationalizing—I call it putting into public ownership—all the nickel, gold, iron ore and uranium which we have in Ontario. If this government gets its mitts on the wealth of Alberta, Newfoundland, British Columbia and Saskatchewan with the help of the fellows to my left, by placing the wealth into public ownership and by removing the possibility for provincial royalties, it will take control of everything on which it can get its hands.

Do you realize, Mr. Speaker, that once the government has an interest in these companies they no longer pay royalties, it is illegal? This government has no intention of cutting the costs of government. Until this country elects a party which cares about living within its means, a party which has the guts to reduce the size of the bureaucracy around here, we will have a republican country. Everything will be in public ownership. There are people in this building who make \$80,000 and \$90,000 a year. The top paid civil servant who works for the Prime Minister makes more than he does. There is staff on this Hill working in the bureaucracy who make more than members of Parliament. There is no excuse at all for the way this government allows the bureaucracy to run our country. I will give members opposite credit for one thing, they know how to get votes. They get votes by misleading and misrepresenting the people of Canada.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the second point I wish to make is this: on January 1 this government can find \$564 million with which to purchase foreign-made metric weigh scales. That is inexcusable. The urea formaldehyde problem could be solved with that sum of money. We would be allowed to stay with our Canadian form of measurement, known as the imperial standard. This government does not care about the people, nor does it care about energy prices. This government will drive free enterprise right out of this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Doug Anguish (The Battlefords-Meadow Lake):** Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to be able to rise on behalf of the New Democratic Party, to speak on the Conservative opposition motion. In its motion it asks that this House condemn the government for again unnecessarily raising petroleum taxes and thereby burdening all consumers, but particularly consumers of heating oil, with prices far in excess of those promised without providing relief to those hardest hit and least able to adjust. I find it strange for the Conservatives to introduce such a motion when they were not very sympathetic at the time they were in a position to do something about this problem.

Our lead-off speaker, the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell), did an excellent job of showing how the increase in prices actually hurt consumers. He also did an excellent job showing that the policies of Liberals and Conservatives alike are very much the same when it comes to

dealing with the energy problem, or the energy crisis, as it is referred to by some people here in Canada.

I would like to take a few minutes to address a few groups which I think are being hurt, particularly those whom I have the honour to represent. They are the people who live in remote northern communities and those involved in the agricultural sector.

Before I address these groups I would like to say a few words about Petro-Canada. During the last election campaign I was very active in supporting Petro-Canada. I thought it was a great agency. I saw it as a way for Canadians to gain some control of the petroleum industry. First, I thought we could gain some substantial control, Canadian control, of the petroleum industry through Petro-Canada. Then I thought Petro-Canada would be a different type of oil company which would sell oil through exploration development at a cost determined by the people who owned it. We could then find out what margin of profit would have to be taxed. In this way we could establish a realistic price to the consumer for a resource which he owned, not some inflated price imposed on us by the oil companies. We, as a party, and myself as an individual, thought that Petro-Canada would be able to provide us with some kind of information about the oil industry. We thought Petro-Canada could tell us how much hydrocarbons there were left in the ground, what it cost to actually develop them and what a realistic price for them would be. There would be a lot of research information that should come back into the federal government and to the people of Canada so we could be more informed and more articulate about the problems which we encounter in the oil industry, because up until now we have had a real problem, as a government and as Canadian people, in acquiring information about the oil industry.

However, I think that at this time, I am not as enthusiastic about Petro-Canada as I was during the last election campaign. The reason I am not as enthusiastic about Petro-Canada is that I am afraid this government will not do anything different with Petro-Canada. All it will try to do is to develop a larger oil company which is a little more efficient. It will still do some of the things which are distasteful to Canadian people. There is a lot of secrecy involved around Petro-Canada. Its policies go astray from time to time, for example when it spends a substantial amount of dollars, not for the benefit of Canadian people but to the benefit of people in other countries when it has its logo developed in other areas of the world instead of in Canada. It has also overlooked the rights of northern territories where some of the oil companies and Petro-Canada have been given lease rights, rights to go into exploration, before the land claims in the north are settled. Therefore, Petro-Canada is turning into something which is no different from any other large oil company, and that distresses me.

● (2030)

I think that if we are looking at something which will just grow larger and try to operate more efficiently, we will be