

Oil and Petroleum

In Quebec, we have huge hydraulic resources. If we said to Ontario: "Listen, you do not have any, so we are going to let you die in the dark. We are not going to sell you any more electricity, because you are Ontario." We could say the same to the United States, because we export electricity there too.

Mr. Harradence, or others who think like him, should realize that if I had to resort once again to candles, to rags soaked in pig or beef fat for lighting I would be one of the first who would get angry and say to Quebec: "Give us electric power, give us power".

Mr. Allard: Give us "juice".

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): I shall say like my colleague from Rimouski: "Give us 'juice'." That is right.

Mr. Speaker, I do not understand the position of those who say: "We are against the bill because it has been introduced by this government." What would the Progressive Conservative government do in its place? I followed in 1962 and 1963 with my colleagues then sitting in the House the struggle led by the Premier of British Columbia against Ottawa to obtain recognition of a treaty or trade agreement between the United States and the British Columbia government, namely the Columbia River Treaty.

The then Premier of British Columbia, W. C. Bennett, led the struggle against the then Prime Minister, the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) and pursued it under the Pearson administration in 1963 and 1965. It lasted seven years and it was recognized afterwards that the Premier of British Columbia was right. The Prime Minister of Canada, the President of the United States as well as the Premier of British Columbia then signed the treaty which is still in force.

Mr. Speaker, the natural resources belong to a province. Alexandre Taschereau, Maurice Duplessis and Jean Lesage were all for it and so is Robert Bourassa. The natural resources belong to a province, but it does not mean that the province must turn away from the others. We live in the same country, so the provinces should agree about their respective natural wealth. We need the gas of Alberta.

An hon. Member: Even in Saint-Hyacinthe.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Even perhaps the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe is now heated by gas which comes from Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, we may discover within two or five years oil deposits in the Atlantic as extensive as those in Alberta or British Columbia.

They say that there might be enough oil in the Alberta tar sands to meet our needs for the next 300 years. Who can say that, six months from now, in view of the search being carried out in the Atlantic and the Gulf St. Lawrence, there will not be, available to us, reserves easier to tap than the Alberta tar sands?

How short-sighted Messrs. Blakeney, Loughheed and Barrett are! When, five years from now, nuclear energy is used, not to kill people, but to serve them, who knows, natural gas might very well fall out of use. I do not mean

[Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue).]

to say that this will necessarily happen, but it might. The coal mines in Western Canada, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and elsewhere have been inactive for a great many years. Now, they are saying: We could use coal to make electricity. That is why they are trying to find openings on world markets for Eastern and Western coal; the day may come when we are unable to meet the demand for it.

Mr. Speaker, those are the facts of life, as far as energy is concerned: one year, you have enough, the next, you don't. This is not unique, for such is the case also in agriculture. Five years ago, they told cattle producers: "Your increasing production will be our salvation". Today they are saying: "We are in a mess now because you overproduced".

Faced with this dilemma, what are we going to do? Will the government make its position known, or will it let anarchy take over Canada? The same thing will happen in the farming and industrial areas, no matter the level of production or Bill C-32 which will impose an export charge.

I feel we should stop giving away our resources to the United States, saying: "Manufacture this material and rob us clean, selling it back to us whether at wholesale or retail prices".

Since we own the basic resources, Mr. Speaker, why not build our own plants to make manufactured goods and sell them ourselves? This would create jobs and replace the depression forthcoming clearly with prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, as I often say, iron ore is bought at Sept-Îles or Rouyn-Noranda at a rate of 2 or 3 cents per ton, and sent to the United States. It comes back afterwards in the form of cars, refrigerators, television sets, or any other manufactured product sold at prohibitive prices. The price of a car which was sold \$2,000 two, three, or four years ago has nowadays climbed up to \$5,100, while being made with primary products coming from the Province of Quebec or Canada.

An hon. Member: Dealers are the ones who make the profit.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Finance companies, rather. The hon. member says to me that dealers are the ones who are making the profits. Mr. Speaker, I for one am a dealer, and I will produce my balances in order to prove beyond any doubt that the Trader's Finance Company is making at least five times more money than I am in my business, by financing while I provide the services. The company is not accomplishing any concrete work and it makes profits, while we do all the job and we are the ones who lay out the money. This is where the difference lies.

Mr. Speaker, such things happen in the automotive industry, as one of my colleagues just said, and the situation is the same as far as energy production is concerned. We sell our energy to the United States, telling them: "Do something with it, then sell it back to us." This is where we get lost in assumptions of all kinds. What they do, we can do it in Canada. We have nothing to learn from them. All a responsible and sovereign government has to do is to make sure that our raw materials are put at the disposal of our secondary industries here.