

*Oil and Gas Production and Conservation***AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say a few words with respect to the amendment before us moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) on behalf of the hon. member for Battleford-Kindersley (Mr. Thomson). I also wanted to make a few remarks related to the other amendments which are before us because it seems to me that in this bill, as well as in other measures which will come before this parliament from time to time, we have a unique opportunity to protect the resources of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories in the interests of the people of those areas and of the people of Canada. I think the drafting and preparation of some portions of the bill has been done with considerable care. I urge that further steps be considered in order to make certain that we take this opportunity to ensure that the resources of that area are developed in the interests of the people of that area and of Canada as a whole.

For that reason, I hope that the minister and the government will be responsive to some of the proposals which have been placed on the order paper as amendments. The particular amendment that is before us suggests that anyone who has an interest in an oil or a gas company which has dealings with the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and who will have to appear before the oil and gas committee, should not have a say in any decisions which are made.

May I point out that when this bill was before the Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the committee saw fit to propose an amendment which is now before the house which ensures that any member who owns shares of any company engaged in any phase of the oil or gas industry in Canada shall not vote when a question affecting this company is before the committee. These are not the exact words of the motion; I paraphrased them to set out their effect.

It seems to me that if there were cause to amend this section of the bill in such a way as to ensure that anyone who has an interest in a company appearing before the oil and gas committee does not take part in any decision of affecting that company, there is equal cause to ensure that that person does not have an opportunity to make decisions with respect to the competitors of any company in

[Mr. Speaker.]

which he has an interest. It should be obvious to all hon. members that just as someone could make a decision which might favourably influence the operations of a company in which he had an interest, so could he influence the operations of a competitor by making an adverse decision.

For this reason, I hope that the minister will be responsive to the proposal placed before us to ensure that there is no chance of any foul play in dealing with the resources of the North. I think this is a particularly important matter because, as I stated previously, we have this unique opportunity to ensure the sound development of our northern resources. Therefore, I hope that the minister will accept this amendment.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): In my opinion the nays have it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On division.

Motion (Mr. Knowles for Mr. Thomson) negated on division.

• (8:10 p.m.)

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre, for Mr. Thomson) moved:

That Bill S-29, an act respecting the production and conservation of oil and gas in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories be amended in subclause (1) of clause 7 by adding the words "and two members who are employees in the public service" after the words "in the public service".

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth of the amendments to this bill inscribed on the order paper by my hon. friend from Battleford-Kindersley (Mr. Thomson). I realize that I have indicated previously the reason for his absence from the house today but perhaps I may repeat that he is a member of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, and that that committee is somewhere in eastern Canada studying the problems of agriculture in that region. It has therefore been my privilege