

equitable policies and legislation. Ordinary Canadians, not governments, people in the private sector, will take the initiative as they always have in the past, and they will put us back on the road to self-sufficiency.

However, the view on the other side, a view shared by the Liberals and the New Democrats, is quite the opposite. What they are trying to do is to exploit the difficulties which they themselves have caused and for which they themselves are responsible so as to pursue their own policies for greater centralized control, as I mentioned before, at the expense of the provinces and territories, for greater governmental presence in commercial undertakings in this country, and a greater use of Crown corporations such as Petro-Canada. They want more regulations and more restrictions placed on the daily lives of Canadians, all at the expense of individual liberty. That is the way I see it. Centralization and socialization go to the very heart of the proposals before us in the Canada Oil and Gas Act.

● (2140)

After that introduction, I want to say a few words on the Canada lands concept which has crept into Liberal terminology in the last little while. It is a new term. We have not been accustomed to using it in the past. We should find out from where it came and what it really means. In order to find out, we must turn to page 43 of the so-called "National Energy Program" which was presented on the evening of October 28. It came in with the ill-fated budget. The two documents quite properly belong together. In my opinion they are both of the same worth and value.

Page 43 contains a map which indicates what is meant by Canada lands, this term which has crawled out of the woodwork of the inner sanctum of the Liberal cabinet. According to this map, it means a huge area of Canada's land and water mass. This afternoon we were told how many more times in area the Canada lands were than the remaining ten provinces. These so-called Canada lands comprise all the traditional offshore areas of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and British Columbia.

The hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) was to speak tonight. However, he is indisposed. If he were speaking on this subject, he would put what I am about to say in much stronger terms. Having failed to negotiate any reasonable agreement with the provinces concerned, provinces which have a legitimate case to present, the Liberal government is using its sledgehammer approach and its unilateral technique to impose its will, for the main part, upon those provinces which are least capable of protecting their own interests.

Also Canada lands is defined by this map as including the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. This land was previously known as territorial lands, lands which we can only think of in this manner. It is land which the federal government presently holds in trust for four provinces to be established at some point in time in Canada's north. I stress the trust concept of these lands. There is no argument that at the present time they are owned by Her Majesty in right of Canada, but in time

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to come, as provinces are developed in the north, as the Yukon becomes a province and as one or more provinces are developed in the Northwest Territories, the resources of those areas must be transferred to those new provinces. They must not be treated any differently than any existing province in Canada.

At the present time it is absolutely necessary for the territories to be given access to resource revenues. The territories are faced with onerous, very high expenditures. The territorial governments are required by law—by federal law in many instances—to provide government services on a par with those of the provinces. It is very expensive to provide educational and social services and hospitals; to maintain the roads and to develop public works.

If they do not have access to some form of revenue in order to provide these services, they will have to approach Ottawa. We must realize that there is no other tax base. The population is such that the government cannot collect the required amount of money from personal income taxes or sales taxes. If they are not able to generate public revenues, territorial governments will always be forced to come cap-in-hand to Ottawa. The rich resources of the territories, which the people there are so anxious to share with their southern counterparts, will be taken out or extracted from the area with no real return. The revenues will be piled up in Ottawa, and the people of those areas will be forced to crawl on their hands and knees in an attempt to get back a few of those sadly-needed dollars to use for the purposes I have outlined.

I refer to page 43 of "The National Energy Program" and the offer which was made by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to the various provinces adjacent to offshore resources. The Government of Canada offered to provide 100 per cent of provincial-type resource revenues to the adjacent provinces, subject to arrangements whereby when the province reached an agreed level of wealth, the revenues would be shared with other Canadians.

The offer included giving to those provinces a substantial voice in matters of direct concern to them, including the need to minimize social, environmental and economic disruption in the region. This offer was apparently turned down by the provinces. At least, this is what is contained in the official publication of the minister. I do not propose to speak on behalf of those provinces. Perhaps they had very good reasons for doing so, but I would strongly recommend to the minister that the same type of offer should be extended to the Northwest Territories and to the Yukon. I am sure this formula would be completely acceptable as an interim arrangement for the north. If it were put into effect, discretionary revenue would accrue to the territories, and they would not be in the position they are now.

The north would not be stripped of its resources with no revenues coming back to it. They would not be forced to come to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Munro) to ask for federal government handouts. But at the same time the government would avoid the situation of people there becoming too wealthy; any excess over a certain