

Oil and Gas Production and Conservation

said earlier. Just now he said that he had no intention of appointing people from the oil industry.

Mr. Chrétien: I did not say that.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Now the minister says he did not say that. Before that he had said that one purpose of the bill was to ensure that at least two members from the private sector were appointed.

Mr. Chrétien: No, not necessarily.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): A moment ago the minister said he has no intention of doing this. He cannot have it both ways. However, I can understand his confusion because he has presented a very poor case to the house. He is not doing too badly, but he has muffed it once more.

[Translation]

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

[English]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Carried.

Mr. Chrétien: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bécharde): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bécharde): All those against the motion will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

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

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

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bécharde): Negatived on division.

Motion (Mr. Knowles, Winnipeg North Centre, for Mr. Thomson) negatived.

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 clause 6, by deleting all words after the word "Canada" in line 40 on page 4 of the bill.

He said: Mr. Speaker, once again I rise on behalf of my colleague the hon. member for [Mr. Howard (Skeena).]

Battleford-Kindersley (Mr. Thomson) to present this amendment which has been on the order paper since May 29. The amendment relates to clause 6 of the bill. Clause 6 is the clause in which the government recognizes that it has to do something about a possible conflict of interest in so far as the members of the oil and gas committee are concerned.

I understand that in the proceedings in the standing committee this issue was grappled with and that the government realized that this clause did not go quite far enough. As a result of that realization certain words were added. We think that even with the addition of those words the clause still does not deal with the very real danger of a conflict of interest so far as the members of this committee are concerned. I say that with respect to all the members but particularly with respect to the members who come from the private sector.

As will be obvious to any who have taken the trouble to study these amendments, we are proposing one solution to this problem in this amendment, and if this amendment carries I will not move the next motion because it will not be necessary. I hope that entices hon. members opposite to vote for this amendment. That will save my being a parliamentary assistant four times today. I shall be one on three occasions only.

• (5:10 p.m.)

Let us look at clause 6. I shall read it as it now stands. The clause now before the house is in the form in which it was amended by the standing committee. Clause 6 thus reads as follows:

No member of the Committee shall have a pecuniary interest of any description, directly or indirectly, in any property in oil or gas to which this Act applies or own shares in any company engaged in any phase of the oil or gas industry in Canada, in an amount in excess of five per cent of the issued shares thereof, provided further that no member who owns any shares of any company engaged in any phase of the oil or gas industry in Canada shall vote when a question affecting such a company is before the Committee.

To keep the record complete and to show that I am not thinking this out as I go along, I may point out that that part of clause 6 which I have just read beginning with the words, "provided further that no member," was added to the clause when the bill was before the standing committee. Our proposal, and it is our main proposal with respect to clause 6, is that the clause be amended by putting a period after the word Canada and striking out all the rest of the words in the