

Last, I reminded this House that the federal-provincial dispute over ownership and control of offshore resources could delay and damage exploration and development on the Atlantic coast. I said the dispute ought to be resolved immediately. Parliament could simply extend the provincial boundaries to include the submarine lands now claimed to be Canada lands by this Bill C-48, or the question could be referred to the courts. I repeat that the proper resolution is federal-provincial negotiation based not on historical facts or law but current needs and problems of eastern Canadians.

Others have dealt with the details of Bill C-48, the difficulties and dangers which they represent to the private sector in the Canadian energy industry. I want to deal briefly with two other points relevant to Bill C-48. The first point is the provision respecting oil and gas spills, and the second is the regulatory powers granted to the minister and the cabinet.

With respect to oil and gas spills, the east coast of Canada has experienced several disastrous shipwrecks which have resulted in extensive environmental and other damages from oil. First, we had the sinking of the *Arrow* and then the *Kurdestan* disaster. Canada now has a fund of over \$50 million collected from ship owners to provide compensation for damages from spills.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the time allotted to him has expired. He had five minutes remaining from his previous speech. He may continue with the unanimous consent of the House.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. Rose).

Mr. Rose: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that objection to the extension of the member's time did not come from this side of the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Mission-Port Moody is recognized.

Mr. Crosby: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Mission-Port Moody.

An hon. Member: There was no objection.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair distinctly heard a series of noes.

Mr. Kempling: Ask the question again.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair asked if there was unanimous consent for the hon. member for Halifax West (Mr. Crosby) to continue his remarks. The hon. member for Mission-Port Moody has the floor for the purpose of making a speech.

Canada Oil and Gas Act

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Mr. Speaker, I am facing some difficulties today in making my remarks. I want to speak to some extent on the matter of alternative energies. I am a member of a committee which is now dealing with that issue and I will do whatever I can to avoid any reference to the committee's work. That is one of the problems associated with the remarks I will be making today, since I will be calling for greater reliance on conservation and alternatives, both in Bill C-48 and the National Energy Program. I will try to avoid the subject which is before an in-camera meeting of a special committee.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind people that my party, along with others, including the Social Credit party, came into being during the 1930s because of the inability of the old-line parties in those days to deal with the collapse of the economy. The Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) indicated today that energy, food and inflation are serious problems which our country faces at present. That, therefore, has prompted the official opposition and our party to try to bring to the attention of the government and the Canadian people the severe problems which we are facing.

In Canada today we see a crisis similar to ones which we experienced in the 1930s. It is of a different magnitude and nature perhaps—certainly when we are dealing with energy it is of a different nature, if not of a different total dimension. If there were not the social measures for which this party has fought, with the assistance, and in some cases the impediment, of the old line parties, such as medicare, hospitalization, unemployment insurance and better pensions, to help people face the crisis in our economy, there would be riots in the streets. That is how serious the situation is today. The tension in this country over constitutional matters, energy matters and economic matters is extremely high and has not been this high for at least 30 years.

● (1550)

I would like to give some examples. We are facing the highest cost price index today of the past five years. On December 19 we had the highest interest rate ever in this country. We face an unemployment rate of more than 800,000 people without jobs. That is the seasonally adjusted figure. The former leader of the opposition, the Hon. Robert Stanfield, once said that if we could adjust the weather in the same way we can adjust the cost of living, we would have sunshine outside today, and the same applies to the unemployment insurance rate. Bankruptcies are at record levels, and housing starts are down. Our industries are operating at 78 per cent capacity.

There is no need for me to go on and list the tragedies and crises which we face.

Mr. Deans: Go on!

Mr. Rose: Would you like me to go on?

Mr. Deans: Yes, list some more.