

*Canada Oil and Gas Act*

**An hon. Member:** Ours was a Canadian budget.

**Mr. Lang:** In conclusion, the National Energy Program is vital to our economic future. In an age of uncertainty it is a national game plan which provides for energy security and economic security through an off oil conservation process, development of our natural resources and alternate renewable energy resources through incentive programs.

**Mr. Taylor:** Louder. That is a pretty weak point. Pound your desk.

**Mr. Lang:** It shares the wealth for the total benefit of all Canadians. It allows the private sector and the provinces a fair share of the wealth and permits the west to develop its resources and to industrialize. It is a major program which will affect all Canadians. It is similar in many ways to other great Canadian endeavours of the past. I refer to the trans-continental railway, the St. Lawrence Seaway and the interprovincial pipeline.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** What about double tracking?

**Mr. Lang:** In addition, it highlights the same aspects of sharing and co-operation which we have come to know and expect in Canada such as the two-price system for wheat and, up until 1973, the two-price system for copper in Ontario. Every Canadian has a role to play in the National Energy Program and a benefit to be gained from it. Such a role might be switching off oil, improving one's home insulation, investing in a Canadian company or actively practising conservation.

Hon. members opposite have been raising many objections and criticisms, but when we look at the facts we find that there is not much substance to what they have said. I would very much like the hon. member for Etobicoke-Centre (Mr. Wilson) to clear up with his leader whether his leader agrees with him that the energy policy of this country is the responsibility of the national government or of the provinces. I would like him to clear this up because I have heard him say that it is the responsibility of the national government, but I do not hear the same thing from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark).

**Mr. Siddon:** That does not mean steal the resources from the provinces.

**An hon. Member:** You should worry about your leader!

**Mr. Lang:** We have natural resources in this country, we have technology and we have people. We have a grand future with respect to energy and with respect to our economy. I think a little optimism more directly based on facts would be appropriate in this House.

**Mr. Friesen:** Mr. Speaker, Sean O'Sullivan used to say, "It's a Lang, Lang way to trick the prairies." I think we have

seen that again tonight. The hon. member said he would entertain a question at the end of his speech. Earlier in the evening the hon. member quoted statistics—

**Some hon. Members:** Question!

**Mr. Friesen:** I am coming to my question. The hon. member quoted statistics indicating that only 40 per cent of the drilling equipment was operating in 1975, five years ago, whereas some 80 per cent or 85 per cent is operating today. He made the point that that is a growth factor as a result of the government's policies. Is the hon. member aware that in 1974 this government brought down a budget which made rigs pull out in 1975? The government is doing the same thing now, and the hon. member is trying to make that look like a growth factor. Did he deliberately mislead the House, or was he just ignorant?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I will treat that question in the best way I can. It is obviously not a question. It is an attempt to misrepresent the facts. I have never stated that it was a policy of the government which resulted in an increased percentage of rigs being employed in Alberta.

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I think it was the policy of the government, plus the entrepreneurial spirit of the oil and gas industry in Alberta and in the rest of the west. It was the work of the individual people in the oil and gas industry, members of the labour unions. It was all those elements which resulted in success, as well as the fact that Canada has natural resources. The hon. member does not have a concern. He is trying to misrepresent facts. I have presented facts, which were presented—

**An hon. Member:** By research assistants.

**Mr. Lang:** No, Mr. Speaker, I presented facts which I gathered from my trips out west, from Bob Blair the president of Nova, from Bob Pierce, vice-president of Nova, from Bill Hopper of Petro-Canada and from Bill Richards, the president of Dome Petroleum. I obtained these figures from people who are involved in the oil and gas industry. These are facts, not just opinions and bellicose rhetoric. I hope I have enlightened the hon. member, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, I am hoping tonight to appeal to the intelligence of central Canada, but my task looks formidable after listening to the last speaker, the hon. member for Kitchener (Mr. Lang). If the heat is too great, he should get out of the kitchen.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, let me speak for a moment on the budget of December 11. We are not bringing it up, it is the hon. gentleman opposite who did so. It is irrelevant now who was defeated, and it was unfortunate for Canada that it was.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!