

*Canada Oil and Gas Act*

precisely zero—not one single oil and gas company, Canadian owned, foreign owned or any other type, was interested in exploring under the rules of Bill C-20. As a result, the government produced “The National Energy Program” from which Bill C-48 originates and which we are discussing today.

Bill C-48 is the same as Bill C-20, except it is worse. It contains all the negative portions of Bill C-20 which have already been rejected on two occasions by people who are expert in this area, plus some additional, totally offensive provisions under the guise of Canadianization, which is the Liberal-NDP way of nationalization. “The National Energy Program” document is one of the most dishonest, deceitful documents of which I have heard and certainly read produced by any government in this country or, so far as I am aware, by any democratic country in the world.

The National Energy Program document is full of inaccuracies, distortions, information which has no bearing on the truth, and projections which were fished out of nowhere and designed to back up a philosophy and a policy that are clearly untenable. I could use up my entire 40 minutes outlining the errors and inaccuracies in this document. It was drafted by officials and a minister who are either dishonest or incompetent. I do not think these people were deliberately dishonest, but that it is merely a case of incompetence. I do not say a lack of intelligence. I would like to think that it is not from lack of motivation, although I am not so sure. Perhaps it is the fact that they just do not know and they do not know that they do not know. The sad part, though, is that they think they know.

For example, I take the topic of revenues as outlined in the document. The central thrust of the budget and the energy program is to have a more equitable revenue-sharing program. The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) once again today in question period repeated the totally erroneous, totally inaccurate percentages and information that existing oil and gas revenues are shared on the ratio of 10 per cent for the federal government, 45 per cent for the provincial government, and 45 per cent for the industry. Those figures are wrong and inaccurate.

I do not blame the Prime Minister because what does he know? He knows how to dance the moozmaad, but he relies on the advice of his officials. Presumably it is the same officials who advise the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde), who produced the disaster of 1974 which brought the oil and gas industry to its knees, and who are giving the same advice today. They are doing it again. I wonder how many times we will have to go down that path before someone says, “Bring me somebody who knows something about the industry”.

The Minister of Fisheries, I understand, is sending an assistant deputy minister to British Columbia in order to learn about the west coast fisheries. That is about the most sensible thing this government has done. Why does it not put an assistant deputy minister in Calgary so it can learn about the oil and gas industry, if it is so determined to take over the industry? If the government is so determined to take over the industry, for goodness sake it should learn about the industry and obtain some advice from people who know.

The employees of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources are intelligent and are motivated in terms of public service but, believe me, they do not know what they are doing. They are causing this country incredible harm. Of course, the Minister of Energy cannot be expected to know that. I am sorry that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) has left. I noticed that he was muttering yesterday about the percentage of oil revenues taken by the State of Texas. He said that it is only 20 per cent as compared to 45 per cent in Alberta, and he made some other international comparisons which indicated that we in Canada are not nearly as equitable in the field of energy as in the United States. Once again the Minister of Agriculture was repeating figures which were given to him by the Minister of Energy which were given to him by his officials who produced this inaccurate document, so it is not surprising that he repeats these inaccuracies.

The fact is that today the state of Texas collects more dollars per barrel of oil produced than the province of Alberta. Moreover, the state of Texas does not own the oil because in the United States land surface rights and land mineral rights go together. Therefore, the owner of the farm and ranch also owns the minerals underneath the land. That is not the case in parts of Canada. In Alberta 85 per cent of the oil and gas-producing properties have mineral rights which are owned by the province. The surface rights may be owned by the farmer, logger or somebody else, but the mineral rights beneath the land belong to the Crown. Therefore, when the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan collect oil and gas revenues, they collect revenues in two capacities, one as the owner, and one as the operator of the government.

● (1620)

By way of analogy, if the Minister of Agriculture were here he would appreciate the differences between what you earn on land which you lease and what you earn on land which you own. There are two levels of earnings. One, as a farmer you should expect a return on the money you invest by way of seed, plowing, labour, fertilizing and so on. Second, you should expect a rate of return by virtue of the fact you own the land. That is the situation in 85 per cent of Alberta. They are the owners as well as the government. They are the owner through the Crown or Her Majesty in right of Alberta. That is never acknowledged in looking at these numbers and making these international comparisons.

So if you look at the state of Texas and add up what the government collects, plus what the owner of the land collects, you get a net back which is much larger than the province of Alberta gets. Yet that does not prevent the Minister of Agriculture from saying, as he did all around the country, including Olds, Alberta, “Gee, we have to change the system because, after all, even in the state of Texas they do not collect as much as they do here in Canada. We need more equitable revenue sharing”.

I have not even dealt with the fact that the government has, in essence, taken half the price of oil, the difference between