

*National Energy Board Act*

It is no longer true that all policy comes from elected representatives who bring forward the views and the attitudes of the people they represent, and thereby the regions they represent, and ensure that government policy reflects these views. Increasingly, it is the civil service that develops and presents policy. Indeed, we have a ministry of State for Science and Technology, for urban affairs, and for multiculturalism who are charged with developing policy. We in the House, we elected representatives can criticize, to be sure, and sometimes we are effective in altering policy. But comparing the resources available to members of this House of Commons with those available to the civil service, we are at a distinct disadvantage and therefore it is the policy of the civil service that prevails. I do not mean to imply that our civil service is incompetent and not nobly motivated, because that is not the case. We have a civil service that is second to none and we can be proud of the people who serve this country. There is a great deal of talent, and I have been suitably impressed and in fact deeply satisfied to see the calibre of people who serve us in Ottawa.

However, if they are all located in one region, if they all live in one enclave and get their opinions from the same newspapers, from the television of that enclave, from the cultural influences of that enclave, it is to me self-evident that they are going to reflect some of the attitudes of that enclave and not be in a position to appreciate the attitudes, views and expressions of concern that emanate from other areas of the country. Since my election last fall, and especially since this session started last January, this point has been brought home to me on many different occasions and I believe it is one of the main factors for what is termed western alienation.

Mr. Speaker, there are many other reasons why decentralization of the federal government is desirable, but I will not bother to repeat them here and now, since, as I have already stated, it would appear from the Prime Minister's statement in Vancouver last weekend that he is already convinced. Therefore, that aspect of the bill should receive government support. In fact, it would appear that most parties in this House, if not all, are in favour of government decentralization, so I would assume there would be no criticism of this aspect of the bill.

The second aspect upon which I should like to comment is: why move the National Energy Board, and why to Calgary? Calgary is clearly the headquarters of the Canadian petroleum industry from which point exploration and development activities throughout all of Canada are planned and co-ordinated. The offices of the Energy Resources Conservation Board, the Independent Petroleum Association of Canada and the principal office of the Canadian Petroleum Association are all located in Calgary. It is estimated that some 20,000 persons are employed directly in the petroleum industry in Alberta and approximately 12,000 of these are located in Calgary. In excess of 400 oil and gas firms are located in Calgary.

Calgary is situated at the hub of the major air routes connecting with eastern Canada and the northwest Arctic, with the midwestern and western United States and the far east. It is a thriving, major city in western Canada and ranks third as the head office centre of Canada's largest companies, by assets and sales, according to a survey

[Mr. Andre.]

conducted by *Canadian Business Magazine*. Historically, Alberta has made an impressive contribution to the Canadian energy picture as a whole. Alberta is presently recognized as Canada's energy province and by 1975 it is expected that Alberta will account for 52 per cent of Canada's energy production and will contain 55 per cent of its reserves, exclusive of those contained in the Alberta tarsands.

The Alberta tarsands suitable for surface mining alone are estimated to contain recoverable reserves of approximately 86 billion barrels, or twice the total proven reserves of conventional oil in North America. With the sands containing an estimated 250 billion barrels recoverable by other means, this area will undoubtedly play a major role in the energy future of this country and indeed of the world. The importance of coal reserves in western Canada must not be overlooked in considering the total energy picture. Western Canada possesses 96 per cent of total Canadian coal reserves. It is of considerable interest that an increasing number of petroleum companies are becoming engaged in the mining industry and hold extensive coal reserves.

The development of Canada's north is assuming increased importance with significant oil and gas discoveries in the Mackenzie delta and Arctic Islands. Calgary is the headquarters of the research being done regarding the development of Arctic energy and its transportation. Both the Northwest Project Study Group and Gas Arctic Systems, since amalgamated as Gas Arctic-Northwest Project Study Group, are located in Calgary as is Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Research Limited.

Being the centre of the oil and gas industry now, Calgary will be, with its associated professional, technical, service and supply industries and its close proximity to the main air, road and water routes to the Arctic, the natural nucleus from which the impetus and drive of energy development in the Arctic will continue to emanate. Certainly in light of the importance of Arctic energy development in this centre and the impact it will have on the immediate and long-term world energy crisis, Calgary's role in the over-all energy picture is one of rapidly increasing significance.

During the last two years it has been necessary for the Independent Petroleum Association of Canada to sponsor seminars in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa in order to emphasize, particularly to the investment community, the importance of the industry and the need for investment in order to ensure the continuing discovery of reserves. Under the new tax incentives recently announced, the prospect of the western Canadian oil industry to obtain eastern capital, so often rebuffed in the past, is enhanced and relocation of the National Energy Board in Calgary would do much to further emphasize the importance of western Canada as the focal point of present and future energy requirements.

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With Calgary being the hub of Canada's major energy reserves, with important offices of the oil industry situated there, it would seem that by having the offices of the National Energy Board located in this city an over-all improvement in communication and co-operation between