

Oil and Gas Production and Conservation

Territories. One cannot help having a feeling, however, that this bill is a technical bill based on some emergency which could exist such as a well coming in tomorrow. I should like to give examples of the kind of thing this bill is intended to do. It is to establish regulations requiring and prescribing the making of tests, logs, analyses and surveys, and the taking of samples. Another section refers to the designation of fields and pools prescribing the method to be used for the measurement of oil, gas, water and other substances obtained from wells. Then, there is the section which mentions prescribing the measures to be adopted to confine any oil, gas or water encountered during drilling operations to the original stratum and to protect the contents of the stratum from infiltration, inundation and migration.

In effect, this bill is a technical bill designed to meet what could be an emergency tomorrow, particularly if we should discover oil and gas in some areas, as is happening I believe at the moment. I do not believe this amendment has any relation to the traditional rights or demands of the people who were born in the Yukon Territory or the Northwest Territories and who can be described as Indian or Eskimo people. I think this amendment is out of context in relation to this particular bill. The minister, who has a responsibility to bring in ideas for the resolution of what we call treaties 8 and 11 which have never been resolved, I think has this in mind in another area. I believe the minister has a direct responsibility to do this. Members of the committee who are in the house, and those members who heard me talk about this earlier today, I am sure will recognize that I am not too enthralled with certain aspects of the bill, particularly in respect of the location of the staff of the committee. But I do not believe this particular amendment has any relation to the present circumstances with which we are dealing, since this bill is intended to control the production of oil and gas in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. It is completely divorced from the indigenous rights of the native peoples of the north. I should like to suggest that this particular amendment is out of order.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to add a few words in support of the position taken by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett) and supported so effectively by the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie). I may say that this amendment, as everyone knows, is before the house in the name of the hon.

[Mr. Orange.]

member for Skeena (Mr. Howard). He was here this afternoon to help us when we were dealing with the amendments we moved on behalf of the hon. member for Battleford-Kindersley (Mr. Thomson). The reason he is not yet here this evening is that he is attending a meeting of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry over in the West Block. We have sent word to him, and if he is not too heavily involved there, we know he will be here to take part in this debate. This does not mean that I will keep this debate going indefinitely.

There is no argument about the right of members to present amendments to the various clauses of a bill at the report stage. That is provided for under Standing Order 75. One recognizes, however, that that right to put down amendments is circumscribed by certain general rules regarding amendments. We came up against this when we were dealing with the report stage amendments to the Criminal Code bill. Some of the amendments we produced in respect of that bill were ruled out of order and with justification. In fact, after two or three had been ruled out of order we did not even argue about some of the others because clearly they were beyond the scope of the bill. I might mention them as a part of making my point. The Criminal Code bill which was before us dealt with many subjects well known to everybody. We tried by amendments to have the bill deal with the question of expunging criminal records, the question of corporal punishment and a few other matters. None of these subjects had been alluded to in any way by Bill C-150 so we had to accept the judgment of the Chair that they were beyond the scope of the bill.

I gather that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) is relying on that judgment as one which should apply here. He is contending that this amendment is beyond the scope of the bill. I think the wording he used is, "not related to this bill". I submit there is a world of difference between the kind of amendments to the Criminal Code bill that were ruled out of order and this one. Those amendments sought to bring before the house another subject altogether. This amendment does not seek to bring before the house another subject. It lays down one of the conditions that we feel should be applied before this bill is put into effect. I would point out that the bill itself makes clear in clause 3 that it applies to oil and gas in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. This is an area in