

*Canada Oil and Gas Act*

It is an absolute mystery to me how any Liberal member from Newfoundland can accept what these grab and seize people are trying to do with the legitimate offshore resources of 750,000 Newfoundlanders.

I read carefully the speech of the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell). He actually said something with which my party can agree. Speaking to the parliamentary secretary to the so-called energy minister, he said, and I quote from page 11,468 of yesterday's *Hansard*:

He should understand that on the coast the people see coastal areas as an extension of the land. It is like land only it is under water.

I think hon. members of my party, and in fact all Canadians, can share in that view of the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

I now want to deal with the speech of the energy minister. If I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the Energy Minister is not well loved in western Canada, Newfoundland or anywhere else, I think you will know what I mean. At page 11,473 of *Hansard*, the energy minister said:

The bill covers the entire Arctic, all offshore mining rights. Those are the areas which in the decades will provide for Canada the energy security it needs.

We feel as a government that those resources belong to all Canadians and that we should see to it that all Canadians benefit from them.

This implies all sorts of things. It implies, for and, that the so-called energy minister does not give a tinker's damn about the Cold Lake project in Alberta. Let me quote from an article by Ronald Anderson in the July 10, 1981, edition of *The Globe and Mail*. It reads:

And when Imperial announced its suspension of Cold Lake, a spokesman for Energy Minister Marc Lalonde said airily that the company had to make its own decision, almost as though Ottawa did not care about the suspension.

Does any member opposite deny that in fact they do not care about the consequences of the Cold Lake project cancellation? The article goes on to read:

Meanwhile, Mr. Lalonde, after a tour of Dome Petroleum Ltd. drilling operations in the Beaufort Sea, is reported by The Canadian Press to have talked confidently about the possibility of an oil surplus in Canada by 1990.

● (2040)

The minister, I suggest in parliamentary language, is stark raving mad if he thinks Canada is going to have an oil surplus by 1990 under his energy policy.

[*Translation*]

I may speak French at this time. The Fathers of Confederation were right in 1867 when they guaranteed to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec the ownership of "lands, mines, minerals and royalties" and "public properties". The foresight of our ancestors should still be an inspiration for Canadians today. Unfortunately, this government makes no attempt to create harmony among the ten equal partners that the Canadian provinces should be. Everywhere, this government is creating conflicts. The latest energy aberration of the Liberals is that of the minister responsible for this sector.

With the virtually avowed intention of breaking up the alliance of eight Canadian provinces against the constitutional

position of this so-called Liberal government—and I have to laugh at this term—the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) offers Newfoundland to expropriate a corridor on Quebec territory so that it may export its electricity to the other provinces or the United States. It is most incredible that this corridor could be expropriated and that electricity could be transmitted over more than 900 miles without having to maintain this high-tension line at a higher cost practically than any profit that might be made. In return, what will this government ask Newfoundland? Will it be to give up its offshore mining rights? Will it be a tax on any profit derived from the sale of this electricity?

The government sets the provinces against each other the better to rule and impose its own views. It is totally unable to solve the energy problems facing all Canadians. If the National Energy Program is as good as the promises concerning the price of gas, I have to be very doubtful about the relevance and the effectiveness of Bill C-48. The major questions that all members opposite should ask themselves is whether it is really necessary to centralize in Ottawa what might well be achieved through consultation—are those opposite aware of the meaning of the word "consultation"?—with those who must live every day with the problems created by this government.

Had this government expended as much energy on trying to reach an agreement with the provinces as it did on making them aggressive, I am not saying that federal-provincial relations would be the reflection of undying love, but we certainly would not be talking about separation, divorce and Supreme Court settlements for everything at every moment. Canada should have a national energy program, fair enough, but we have to draw the line when the implementation of that program is going to be detrimental to what took us 114 years to build. We Progressive Conservatives had initiated a détente with the provinces; we covered more ground towards harmony in six months than it took this government to foster hatred and mistrust in one week. It is easy to depict the state of current relations—a country made up of ten provinces and two territories which are on the verge of breaking up as a result of a lack of appreciation for the Canadian reality and the nearly non-existent concern over Canadian regionalism. That is not what I wish for my country, but that is what is very likely to happen if this government or a better one fails to settle the various problems which confront us. Mr. Speaker, how can anyone considering this bill believe in the good faith of this government when that same government cannot even see eye to eye with Alberta on the price of oil from that province, or else with Quebec on the substitution of petroleum for gas or electricity?

[*English*]

Perhaps Mr. Speaker, you will permit me to quote on this from a letter I wrote which appeared in the current issue of "Saturday Night" on the subject of the national energy policy. I think I speak for many in western Canada and elsewhere. I wrote:

The reality is that provincial resource control to most westerners—