

the oil industry as a whole at that time was experiencing lean years the Canadian government ensured a national market by levying a 35 per cent tariff on the imported oil at a time when Canadian oil companies would have been unable to meet competition from offshore oil.

Mr. Speaker, this is federalism; it is not a one-way street. Unfortunately there are people who are always here to receive but who seem to disappear into thin air when the time comes to give. Those things must be said. The people have the right to know. I shall refer once again to the remarks made on October 30 last by Mr. Lougheed to his fellow citizens, remarks inspired by passion rather than by reason when he said, and I quote:

Although our province is not represented in the federal government, proposals unfair to the citizens of Alberta are being introduced in the House.

Well, I will reply to that that it is their responsibility and not ours to elect people who will represent them at the federal level. We certainly tried, but we have been rejected. We agree, those are the rules of the game. In a democratic system, once the rules are set, nobody is free to change them. If we could, we would all wait for the second turn around and support the government. Finally, the west is sulky with the Liberal party and it is its privilege to be so. If a Progressive Conservative government were elected, in less than four years, this feeling of unrest, of alienation would still be felt and the new government would be strongly challenged. Why? It is merely a phenomenon created by distance. Being far away, westerners have the feeling they are governed by strangers which is far from the truth. We are all Canadians and we can also deeply feel the distress experienced by a westerner. We would be ready to struggle bravely to death for our brothers in western, eastern or central Canada. The people of this country should know and understand that. However, that is creating dissension at present, not the fair policies of this government nor the unilateral patriation of the constitution. It is merely the fact that some individuals are protecting their immediate interests. Those people discovered suddenly that the most efficient, the easiest electoral platform, one that speaks most directly to the heart of the electorate, is the defence of provincial autonomy, which amounts to campaigning against the federal government.

To come back to our subject, I am pleased to see that the objective of the federal government is a Canadian participation of at least 50 per cent in oil and gas production by 1990. Therefore, I welcome with great satisfaction the initiative to lay claim to any property in offshore territories and regions which cover an area almost twice that of the ten provinces.

Is it a good thing to note that those concessions cover 300 million acres? Those territories belong to us. We should develop them since they contain, I think, the largest reserves known to date. The present legislation on development will be amended to modernize the management of oil and gas rights, not to mention some new measures concerning the supervision

and control of those operations which will be introduced. A fairer return for all Canadians is foreseen. Therefore, maximum use of Canadian equipment for development purposes will be required, of course. Any responsible government ought to give itself the tools and the means which are necessary to meet the national objectives.

● (1640)

I remember listening sometime before Christmas to the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), I think, the minister of finance in the former government, who is known for his oratorical fireworks. He is very amusing at times; indeed there is a time for comedy in our debates just as there is for serious talk. The credibility of the hon. member is shaken, if not uprooted, by the lyricism of his rhetoric. When, on the one hand, he assumes the role of the great defender of one or the other of the provinces while, on the other, being very timid as a representative of the national government, how does he explain his double standard?

As a responsible MP, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows full well that we cannot make decisions that please all the people all the time. We cannot always say yes, just as a caring father cannot acquiesce to every request his children make. This time of the year gives us a very good example of that when we have occasion to leaf through the Christmas catalogue with our children. We all know how children ask for countless things, and all they ask for in the letters addressed to the North Pole. Children have a lot to ask. Must their fathers accede to all those requests? If, moreover, the bad neighbour comes up at that point and tells the children, "Go ahead, your father can afford it; he can even give you more than that", he does not help matters. Indeed, how you would have appreciated his help. That is exactly what the hon. member for St. John's West keeps doing all the time. He does exactly that. Not only does he appeal to your emotions, but he also intentionally and irresponsibly spreads confusion and division.

As so aptly put by Jean Dandurand, a military pilot can drop hundreds of bombs while being spared the unpleasantness of a single one of his victims' suffering. Nationalist policies often spare him the sight of his victims, encourage him to dissociate himself from them, and teach him to see his massacres as so many victories. That is precisely what the party across the way is endeavouring to do in energy policy matters. The hon. member should refrain from speaking as he did before Christmas. He spoke of the alienation, the frustrations of the people out west, of the separatist tendencies, and so on. In so doing, in fact he becomes the very propagator of those tendencies. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal government is the great architect of the outstanding Canadian energy policy that enables all Canadians to benefit from the wealth that belongs to them and that they have developed together. We would have acted like cowards had we not faced up to our responsibilities. I was one of those who helped to draw up our political platform in the last election campaign, and I am proud to see