

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The Chair also accepted those remarks. But we have to draw the line at some point. I do say once again that the Chair has been very, very lenient in the past, but I would invite you, and that is all I can do, to speak to the motion.

Mr. Huntington: Mr. Speaker, equity and sharing is central to this motion, it is central to the bill and it is central and germane, in the opinion of the opposition that is at large in this country, to this piece of legislation. Motion no. 3 deals with the Canada lands concept. I am speaking to equity and sharing, and the lack of equity that is in this bill as far as we in the west are concerned and as far as those in the Atlantic regions of this country are concerned.

The motion deals with the matter of offshore rights, the matter of the extension of confiscation and so-called Canadianization of practices that were completely successful in the development and exploration work being done on those lands and offshore. That is all part of the equity and the sharing I am addressing right now. That lack of equity and fair sharing goes way back and is deeply embedded in the evolution of this whole matter of federalization and so-called Canadianization which many of us feel is absolute confiscation and a denial of the fundamental principles that built this great continent.

May I say that the province of British Columbia is very surprised to find C-48 before the House, as there was a distinct understanding that this matter and this business would not be before the House before the fall.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Huntington: I know that the mouthy experts over there are absolute masters in dealing with the extremes of legal interpretation, and if there are masters anywhere in the world who are experts in the tricky use of language, they are over there, and that is what they are relying on now.

The fact remains that at large in this country there is opposition among governments which are concerned with aspects of this bill that are involved in motion No. 3; aspects that are very important to the Atlantic provinces and to the province of British Columbia. The government, by bringing this matter forward at this time, is not living up to the impression it left at large within those provinces. They have not even been extended the courtesy of being notified of the amendments on the Order Paper addressing a matter as important as the Canada lands concept that we are speaking to in this motion right now.

We are talking about people keeping their word. Has the government kept its word?

An hon. Member: Sure we do.

Mr. Huntington: Why then did the government see fit to defeat an opportunity to debate one of the most important matters ever placed before this House, the motion put today seeking concurrence in the report of the Committee on Regu-

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lations and Other Statutory Instruments? Why did the government defeat that if it felt it did not have the opportunity to leave this bill to the fall, as it said it would and as it gave the impression it would to all the provinces?

The province of British Columbia is on the eve of a meeting with its sister maritime provinces in the Atlantic, but it has been waiting, as have the maritime provinces, for a promised letter from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources—waiting, waiting and waiting. Where is that letter in order that the meeting can proceed, so the provinces would have some knowledge of what is in the dark secret halls of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources? I suggest that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) use the executive mail service that is available to the large corporations and banks in Canada and have that letter delivered to the provinces which are concerned and are waiting for some kind of an insight as to policy and what is to be on the table next.

The parliamentary secretary said just this afternoon that the government was anxious to negotiate in this area. If the government is so anxious to negotiate, and if its rhetoric keeps coming out that way, why then is the government not doing as it says it will do with the provinces involved? Why is the government interfering with the progress of a meeting that is awaiting that letter? The issue addressed in motion No. 3 is important to my province. That province has had no warning and has not even seen the amendments, as I have said.

On the matter of offshore rights, my province has been to the courts. In 1967 there was a Supreme Court decision in favour of the federal position. But in 1976, the B.C. Court of Appeal ruled that waters inside the boundary between headlands inside those baselines fall within the jurisdiction of the province. As soon as that B.C. Court of Appeal decision came down, the federal government, in its anxiety to cause confrontation everywhere, launched an appeal, and since then has never proceeded with it. Why has it not proceeded with that appeal? Why has it not cleared that area?

There has been a moratorium on drilling and exploration in those coastal waters of British Columbia. Why has that moratorium been in effect?

It seems that the socialists in this country are intent on zero or negative growth. They have been interfering with the progress of every megaproject, every exploration project and everything that could deliver us to energy self-sufficiency by the year 1990. That is the deliberate plan of this government. The basic fundamental objectives of the National Energy Program are simple, concise and in place, and all they need is some fiscal policy and a government which wants to achieve energy self-sufficiency rather than impose a revolution and a change in the form and style of government to interfere with the freedom and liberty of people, as this government is doing.

The government should heed the warnings of the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) and the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie). This matter of the Canada lands concept is truly a political matter of great importance to the provinces and the people on both coasts. It