

Canada Oil and Gas Act

two governments claimed to have reached an agreement. He contended that it is not an agreement but a concoction. Mr. Stein is also the mayor of Swift Current.

Bill Whelan, head of the provincial branch of the Canadian Petroleum Association, was quoted as saying that he hoped the agreement will mean a return to the vigorous activity of the past. He said that meetings had been set up at which the association would analyse the accord to see what it would really mean to the industry, referring to the \$15.4 billion agreement initialled by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and Premier Blakeney. Saskatchewan, the second largest oil-producing province, is expected to gain \$5.8 billion from the accord which expires at the end of 1986, while about \$6.1 billion in revenues is predicted to be generated for the industry.

I see you are on the edge of your chair, Mr. Speaker, so I will close by pleading with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. MacLaren) to speak to the minister and ask him to withdraw Bill C-48 and the National Energy Program, and bring in a sensible energy plan that will make Canada self-sufficient.

Mr. MacLaren: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. During the previous speaker's intervention, which seemed to consist of reading from various newspapers and magazines, he chose to quote from an article which disparaged senior public servants in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The article, which he evidently quoted with approval and subsequently referred to, named the public servants. They are not in this House, Mr. Speaker, and do not have an opportunity to defend themselves. It is not in accordance with the best traditions of this House to name public servants and attack them individually from behind the immunity conferred by membership in this place.

If the hon. member opposite knew the system of government which we enjoy in this country, he would realize that there is one person, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde), who speaks for the government in this area. Today in his absence I act as his surrogate, but the responsibility for the policy resides entirely with the Government of Canada. It does not reside with the group of public servants who are named in this House as if they are perpetrating some monstrous fraud on the Canadian people, or whatever the allegations were.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The parliamentary secretary was recognized in the normal course of debate and he has the right to participate as a member of the House. I do not feel the point he is making is, strictly speaking and within the rules of the House, a point of order. If the hon. parliamentary secretary wishes to continue his speech, the normal time would be allotted to him.

Mr. McKenzie: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I recognized the parliamentary secretary as participating in debate in the normal course. I have not recognized a point of order.

Mr. McKenzie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: No, the hon. member has spoken. The parliamentary secretary has the floor and this is his speech.

Mr. McKenzie: I am rising on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie) on a point of order.

Mr. McKenzie: I am rising on my own point of order to correct the record. The parliamentary secretary said that we should not mention senior civil servants in this House. It is not a precedent that I have set today. Senior civil servants have been mentioned dozens of times in this House. We are talking about a matter—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has ruled that a point of order is not involved. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has the floor.

Mr. MacLaren: Mr. Speaker, I did rise on a point of order after the—

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood (Mr. Rae) on a point of order.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine would accept a question?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The time of the hon. member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine has expired. The Chair has recognized the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Mr. MacLaren: Mr. Speaker, I rose on a point of order. I shall take the occasion to speak later in the debate.

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak this afternoon on Bill C-48, the Canada Oil and Gas Act and in particular Motion No. 23 which, as has been pointed out by my colleague, the hon. member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie), amounts to sheer and utter confiscation. Unfortunately, I do not champion the legislation in its present form, but it is one of immense importance to all Canadians.

● (1600)

I do not sit on the energy committee but I am keenly interested in our national energy policies, as is everyone in this House. It is interesting to note that over 100 witnesses appeared before the energy committee when it considered this legislation, and yet from what I can gather none agreed with the over-all details of the bill. There were no amendments at the committee stage—shades of unilateralism once more, Mr. Speaker. This is the same type of unilateralism we had at the start of the constitutional debate, and what Premier Lougheed said as early as this morning is going on across the street. It is the same type of unilateralism as with VIA Rail.