

from the tar sands. We have to find some way of keeping the Beaufort going at a minimal level. We have to talk about a stabilization program in Alberta for the small oil companies so that they are not swallowed up. We could go further and talk about banking some oil and gas.

Technically, the Bill is well written for what it tries to do. However, it is flawed in the sense that it does not deal with the native problem. The Government is trying to put aside that problem in that it is trying to negotiate land claims on the one side and it is giving away all these interests on the other. If there is a court decision or settlement, this could return to haunt the Government. The Bill is also flawed in the sense that it is going to mean the end of private Canadian oil companies in the offshore. We are going to see only the bigger international or American companies there. While they may be straightforward and honest people, their interests are not necessarily the interests of the Canadian public. This Bill unnecessarily cuts the government oil company, Petro-Canada, out of an advantage in the frontier which is really needed. That, too, will return to haunt us and at some point it is going to have to be changed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions or comments?

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, in the few minutes left to us I would like to debate on third reading, if I might.

We have been involved with this Bill, originally C-92 and now C-5 in this new session, for some time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. There is a question and comment period. I noticed the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) was rising to ask a question. Does he wish to ask a question? He does. Then I will recognize the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier for a question or comment.

Mr. Waddell: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member is of course entitled to ask me a question. From our point of view, we would be disposed to wrap up the Bill tonight if that is possible and if it is fair to the Parliamentary Secretary whom I would like to hear speak.

Mr. Gauthier: Speaking on the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, it was my understanding, following certain consultations, that we would proceed to third reading of this Bill tonight. I was just asking a question because I could see there was time left before six o'clock. If the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary insists on speaking for the next five minutes, I do not see any difficulty so long as he sits down before six o'clock so we can pass the Bill.

Mr. McDermid: I find that interesting coming from my Liberal friend across the way. I was just about to say, when I was so rudely interrupted, that a great deal of work—

Canada Petroleum Resources Act

Mr. Gauthier: On a point of order.

Mr. Nunziata: Point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. The Hon. Member for York South—Weston (Mr. Nunziata) has a question or comment, therefore I must recognize him.

Mr. Nunziata: I seek clarification. As I understand it, this is the time to ask questions or make comments on the speech by the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell). Is that correct?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Yes, that is correct. The Hon. Member for York South—Weston has the floor for questions or comments.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, in putting my question to the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway I would like to apologize to the Hon. Member for Brampton—Georgetown (Mr. McDermid) for exercising my right as a Member of Parliament to put the question. If he thinks that this is rudely interrupting, I would like to apologize.

I have had the opportunity over the last number of weeks to travel to different parts of Canada and I have been somewhat concerned about the different prices of gasoline we see in different parts of the country. Over the weekend I was in Halifax and the price of leaded gasoline is around 45 cents or 46 cents a litre. Upon my return to Toronto I found that the price of gasoline—

Mr. McDermid: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. We are debating third reading of a frontier exploration Bill and I have difficulty in understanding how the price of gasoline at the pump has anything to do with Bill C-5.

Mr. Nunziata: If the Hon. Member knows his stuff, as I am sure he does, he will know that in order to sell gas at the pump you have to find it somewhere.

Mr. Riis: That is pretty complicated.

Mr. Nunziata: It seems to me that this Bill speaks to the finding of gas and oil in Canada. I therefore submit that questions relating to the price of gasoline are essential and relevant to the debate.

The Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway has become an expert in the field of energy prices in Canada second only to my friend and colleague, the Hon. Member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys (Mr. MacLellan), my Party's critic. I question whether it is fair that a motorist or businessman in Halifax pays 10 cents or 11 cents more per litre of gasoline than his or her equivalent in Toronto. I would like to ask the Hon. Member if this Bill will in any way eliminate the inequities which exist in the price of gasoline in Canada?

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, the answer is no, the Bill will not change the inequities. The Hon. Member should understand that the Conservatives deregulated the price of gasoline