

speech. Of course there are certain exceptions respecting statements by ministers, members giving their maiden speeches, or members speaking in a language other than their own. I respectfully suggest that none of those exceptions was the case as the previous speaker gave her presentation.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** The remarks of the hon. member are well taken. I think it is a custom that all members do not read speeches, but they can refer to notes during their speeches. This is a common practice in the House. Perhaps the hon. member has noticed something which the Chair has not noticed, but I only saw the hon. member quoting from notes. I could not say that the hon. member was reading her speech, therefore I did not interrupt the proceedings at that time.

**Miss Nicholson:** Mr. Speaker, I had notes to which I was referring. The hon. member is most welcome to look at them. If he can find a speech written there, he will have done more than I, because I did not have a written speech.

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak on Bill C-48, the supposed culmination of what is now 10.5 years of effort by diligent, able, intelligent, knowledgeable public servants and their ministers who have been working on this problem.

As indicated by the previous speaker and other spokesmen on the other side, the purpose of this bill is to give Canadians, specifically the Canadian government, more control over the oil and gas industry particularly in regard to the Canada lands. One must ask why for goodness sake, given the record, would any sane individual want to give that bunch of incompetents more say.

We must consider the history. The oil and gas regulations pertaining to the Canada lands, north of sixty and offshore, were withdrawn by the Liberal government, by the minister of the day, J. J. Greene, in April, 1970, or 10.5 years ago, with a promise that they would be replaced immediately by a more up-to-date version which would be more appropriate to the modern era. For three years we waited with bated breath while the government struggled internally to come up with the promised national energy policy. The current Senator Austin from British Columbia, was the deputy minister who assured us through his mouthpiece, the then minister, that it was coming.

Finally in July, 1973, an energy policy for Canada was produced. It was a marvellous document representing three years of tremendous labour by the government. It was abandoned six weeks later when the government took unilateral action in response to political pressure from its bedmates, the NDP, on September 4, 1973. Then they went back to the drawing board, struggled, and so on, and produced what ultimately was in the budget of 1974 of the Hon. John Turner, the minister of finance; the Hon. Donald Macdonald, the minister of energy; and assistant deputy minister of finance, Mickey Cowen, who is now the deputy minister of energy. It was a budget which brought the oil and gas industry to its knees. Hundreds of rigs, thousands of Canadian citizens,

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and billions of dollars departed because of the energy policy which arose out of the budget of May, 1974. However, it produced the necessary majority Liberal government, which was its intent; never mind that it did dramatic and drastic harm to Canada.

Then they laboured mightily again. The minister of energy, Mr. Macdonald, having been chastened for the disaster he and his friend, John Turner, perpetrated on the country in 1974, produced a new energy strategy for Canada. Ultimately the document was tabled by Alastair Gillespie, and it was called "A New Energy Strategy for Canada—Policies for Self-Reliance". Finally, six years after the old policy was withdrawn, the new one was introduced. The new document said that we must move to world prices, that we cannot live in a never-never world of trying to have prices that are some fraction of world prices, that we must have equitable revenue sharing, and so on and so forth. However, it never did produce any legislation. We were still without any oil and gas regulations for Canada lands.

● (1610)

What it did, though, based on the philosophy within this document, was that it resulted in an agreement with the producing provinces, and consequently there were two years or three years of stability in federal-provincial relations with regard to energy, substantial growth in the industry and, in fact, a country working toward self-sufficiency. But the temptation to abuse and misuse the regional nature of this country and again stomp on the producing provinces was too much. So the Hon. Alastair Gillespie broke a written agreement which had been arrived at as the result of consultations which occurred when this document was produced.

Still there were no oil and gas regulations for Canada lands. Finally, in August, 1977, there were some tentative oil and gas regulations brought down, seven years and three months after the original set of regulations had been withdrawn. These regulations were put to the industry to determine if there was any interest within the industry to operate under them, and they failed dismally. The industry said that it was not interested. Finally, the federal government produced Bill C-20 in 1978, the proposed Canada Oil and Gas Act. The government was convinced that Bill C-20 was the cat's meow, that it would do the trick.

In June, 1979, the government opened up for bids some northern land and said that it would welcome companies which asked for exploration permits on those northern acreages. One company replied and requested a permit for a small portion of the total available land. That company was Dome Petroleum and the land was close to its existing acreages which it had held for many years. No company was interested in taking on the obligations of maintaining an exploration permit in the north based on the rules outlined in Bill C-20.

Apparently that was not enough of a message for the government because, I believe, just two or three months ago it again opened up some acreage for exploration permits in Canada lands and the number of companies which replied was