

Canada Petroleum Resources Act

telling the Government to be honest and tell companies that although they are getting a permit they had better be careful because the lands may be subject to aboriginal land claims in the future.

In Motion No. 4 we suggest that when the Minister formulates the criteria for the bids which the companies will make for the leases under this Act he be obliged to consult with the aboriginal groups in the local communities. Is this not a reasonable amendment? Is there not any room for giving here? The Government purports to want to help the native people. My colleague, the Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands (Mr. Manly) pointed out that when the Parliamentary Secretary was on this side of the House and was the critic for Indian Affairs he said that a Tory government would consider native people. Is this another broken promise? The then Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development said at committee that local groups would be consulted. That was another Tory promise. I take the former Minister at his word, but why not write it in the Bill if you are going to do it? It seems to me that this is a grace clause. All the Government need do is consult. It need not accept what native peoples say. That puts it up front.

I am sure that the Member for Western Arctic would say that we should get northerners involved in the development of the north rather than continuing to allow southerners to tell the north what to do. He was giving me a hard time for that before. I can turn that around on the Government. I hope he will support my amendment if it comes to a vote.

Motion No. 4 reads:

In the formulation of bid criteria, the Minister shall be obliged to consult with representatives of affected aboriginal groups and local communities.

The members of the committee were prepared to accept this. Conservative Members understand the principle that local people should be consulted, whether on the Nova Scotia offshore or on the Arctic. Conservative backbenchers can adopt and relate to that principle. I invite them to vote for this motion.

Motion No. 14 is grouped for debate with Motion No. 15. The old system had a Crown share. The Crown could get 25 per cent of the action. It could back in at 25 per cent once the well was developed. In response to pressure from George Shultz and the Government of the United States the Canadian Government caved in and got rid of the Crown share. The Americans did not like it because the big American oil companies did not want to give 25 per cent of the action, even though it is our oil, our land, and our money that was being spent through grants to help them develop it. They did not like the notion of having to give a Crown share. They called it retroactive, back-in and confiscation of property. Some day the Canadian people will wake up and toss the Government out because it does not respect Canadian sovereignty and independence. This was one part of the National Energy Program which should have been kept.

Motion No. 14 says that we should retain the Crown share north of 60° and use it for the aboriginal claims settlement. If

we get rid of that we have lost one of the means through which we could settle native claims. One possibility would be to give the aborigines the back-in. The Government purports to want to settle the claims, so why give away this possibility?

I think I have summarized my position on these motions, Mr. Speaker. They are all perfectly reasonable motions, some even more reasonable than others. I expect that the Government could accept one, possibly two, and hopefully all four of these motions.

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to the four amendments which were proposed by the Member for Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell). Motion No. 3 reads in part as follows:

—there shall be inserted a condition or caveat that the area in question is subject to an aboriginal claim and may ultimately be owned by the aboriginal people in fee simple, including the sub-surface.

This relates to the motions which were debated earlier. This could be very important in clarifying the situation. There has been no format or procedure set forth which would indicate what the situation will be when reserves which are earmarked for development run into lands which have been designated for aboriginal claims. It would be beneficial to put forward a position of the Government.

It is quite reasonable that the Government agree with Motion No. 4 which reads:

In the formulation of bid criteria, the Minister shall be obliged to consult with representatives of affected aboriginal groups and local communities.

The Member for Vancouver—Kingsway stated correctly that the former Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development said that Indian groups and communities would be consulted. If they are going to be consulted, what is wrong with including that in the legislation? It is not unreasonable to expect that the people directly affected by this Act should be consulted. I think that is only common decency. If we are going to act in the best interests of the people involved, why would they not consult with them?

Motion No. 14 reads in part as follows:

Prior to the settlement of aboriginal claims in affected areas the Crown share shall be retained North of 60° in any interest granted or entered into.

● (1220)

I know what the Hon. Member is attempting to achieve but the situation as it now stands is equally bad in all parts of Canada where frontier development was taking place. That not only relates to the Beaufort but to the offshore and the East Coast as well. What has happened with all this exploration and no development is that these communities, these areas of our country which incurred a great deal of expense in anticipation and hope that these deposits of oil and gas would mean financial success and security to at least some capacity have now been disappointed and are left without any kind of compensation.

I think the problem is that the Government has taken away an equity provision from all the areas in the frontier. It has