

Oil and Gas Production and Conservation

the north. In some ways we seem to be perpetuating the old benevolent imperialism of the past. I believe there should be a provision which would ensure that the people who live in the north would have some say in respect of the activities of this committee. No such provision has been made.

I do not wish to continue this discussion beyond this point because we have made our position very clear. We have pointed out that unless changes are made in this bill there will be a conflict of interest and that the conflict of interest will result in the north not being developed as well as it might had we been able to eliminate such a conflict.

● (5:40 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: Is the house ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: No.

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the nays have it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): How do you know? You didn't call the nays.

Mr. Speaker: All those against will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion, the nays have it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On division.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is negated on division.

The motion (Mr. Knowles for Mr. Thomson) negated on division.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre, for Mr. Thomson) moved:

That Bill S-29, an act respecting the production and conservation of oil and gas in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories as amended by the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development be further amended in clause 6 by inserting immediately after the words "affecting such a company" the following words: "or any of its competitors in the oil and gas industry".

29180—620½

He said: Mr. Speaker, I indicated when I moved the previous amendment, which I offered on behalf of my colleague, the hon. member for Battleford-Kindersley (Mr. Thomson), that if that amendment had been accepted by the house it would not be necessary to move this one.

I had hoped that the offer would bear some fruit, but apparently it did not have the right appeal to my friends opposite. May I say at the outset, in case my friends on the other side did not realize it at the time, when I read clause 6 in connection with the previous motion I read it in its entirety including the words that were added in the committee. In other words, I am fully aware—

An hon. Member: Your friends over there were not listening to you.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): My friends did not need to listen to me because they knew what I was going to say, but I had hoped my friends on the other side of the house would have paid some attention to my arguments before trying to answer them.

The contention that this matter of conflict of interest has been taken care of by adding the words that were added to clause 6 in the committee is in my view quite hollow. Perhaps I should at this point, since we are on the new amendment, read clause six as it is now before the house, namely as it appeared in the original bill plus those words added by the standing committee. I now discover that those words represent an agreement, a plot or a concoction arrived at by the Liberals and Conservatives. I thought there was something wrong with it. I was not a member of that committee so I did not know what had happened. I am just a pinch hitter.

An hon. Member: You are striking out.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): The trouble is that members of the other side do not realize when I have knocked a home run.

Clause 6 now reads:

No member of the Committee shall have a pecuniary interest of any description, directly or indirectly, in any property in oil or gas to which this act applies or own shares in any company engaged in any phase of the oil or gas industry in Canada in an amount in excess of 5 per cent of the issued shares thereof, provided further that no member who owns any shares of any company engaged in any phase of the oil or gas industry in Canada shall vote when a question affecting such a company is before the committee.

I hope this time my friend, the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Orange),