

*Oil and Petroleum*

the proposal I made is that it reduces the power of those who look after our money. Their place in the social spectrum disappears.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Baldwin:** The NDP are approving what you are saying. You better watch it!

**Mr. Gilbert:** Sinclair Stevens will really like this.

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** I plead with the Minister of Finance to listen to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources whose statutory responsibility and right it is to ask the Minister of Finance to protect the mining and resource industry. Let him speak up for the mining people and for the oil people.

I ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to put pressure on the provincial governments with regard to new mines and oil fields and tell them, "If you all stop being greedy, you will all get more money." Even a provincial premier or a provincial minister will respond to that. I ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to press the Minister of Finance to amend the tax laws, to encourage the people to save increasingly and to invest. The one way to make money is to invest in the shares of the resource industries in Canada. The best way to ensure a good return on these investments is to make certain the senior capital is paid off fast, and not only will the provincial and federal governments be better off but so will the shareholders. Let the people of Canada as individuals own this country, not the provinces or the federal government.

I do not believe that the great majority of the members of the NDP want any form of socialism. I know them.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** There are only a few aberrations that got into the House.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Tell us what the Tories want.

**Mr. Gilbert:** Tell us what Sinclair Stevens wants.

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** In winding up my remarks I am pointing out that the great majority of members of the NDP across this country, the labour people, do not want socialism, do not want technocrats ruling this country, and they will go for a program whereby individuals own this country. Therefore I suggest that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources take into account the debate he has heard today and the comments made by some pretty good Canadians, such as the hon. member for Peace River, who proposed a compromise and took this out of the House in December.

We do have some constructive proposals whereby the minister can retain his power if he does it within the framework of the constitution. I hope that he will not only be flexible in looking at these amendments to improve the bill but will try to achieve that consensus, if possible without having to use the bill, by getting the Minister of Finance to change his position. As Bonaparte could retreat from Moscow, so can the Minister of Finance retreat from his irrational and silly budget.

● (2120)

**Mr. Stanfield:** Madam Chairman, perhaps as I have been described as a socialist conservative, I can make a constructive contribution.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Just like Saturday night.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I am surprised to find that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre is spending his time in such a frivolous way.

I would like to emphasize something the minister himself has made pretty clear today. Following the failure of the recent conference of first ministers to reach a consensus on the price of crude oil in Canada—leaving natural gas alone for a moment—the premiers, the Prime Minister, the minister to some extent, the government establishment and the functionaries who talk to the press immediately gave the impression to the Canadian people that in the absence of a consensus involving all of the provinces and the federal government, the federal government would have no alternative but to seek these powers under Bill C-32, and to use them.

The minister was frank enough to say today that what is really involved ultimately would be a consensus between the federal government, representing the views of all the Canadian people, and the producing provinces. It would be very helpful, of course. Everyone would like to see a consensus involving not only the federal government and the producing provinces, but the federal government and all the provinces, including the producing and consuming provinces. But I do not think the spokesmen for the federal government should try to give the Canadian public the impression that, failing a consensus involving all the provinces, the federal government has no recourse but to invoke legislation of this sort, whereas I think the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has stated quite clearly that these powers he is seeking would, in his judgment, not be necessary if the federal government could achieve a consensus with the producing provinces.

I think the country as a whole should understand that this consensus in the last analysis is necessary for the federal government to see, in effect, a level of petroleum prices which is satisfactory to the country, much as the desire, no doubt, to see a consensus which included the consuming provinces. It is not necessary for me to labour that point but—

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Stanfield:** I know I am not in the same class as the hon. member for St. Boniface, and I frequently thank my maker for that.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** On a point of order, Madam Chairman, I just wanted to make sure that the Leader of the Opposition knew that nowhere was he close to the manner in which the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain brought this matter to the attention of the House a while ago. He does not have the same enthusiasm or the same phraseology, and I thought I would bring that to his attention.