

Petroleum and Gas

provocative and outrageous as that made by the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor)—

Mr. Taylor: It was true, that is why.

Mr. Skelly: I wonder whether a person would be denied the opportunity to respond and set the record straight. Is it the intention of the Chair not to allow Members who have spoken to reply?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): I think that is not the question; the question is that the Chair recognizes people as they rise and at the discretion of the Chair. We are now back in debate.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I know there is a period of time allotted for asking questions and answering them, but I think that if there is a point of order on a procedural matter in that time, the time taken for it should be subtracted from the debating period. It seems to me that I still have the opportunity to answer in a brief way the question raised by the Hon. Member for Crowfoot and the other Member.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): No, the time for the question period had expired at the moment the Hon. Member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly) rose on a point of order. The question period is definitely completed. It may be prolonged by unanimous consent if that is the wish of the House. Do I have unanimous consent to prolong the question period?

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): There is not unanimous consent so we are back in debate. The Hon. Member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone).

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It is my understanding that we rotate speakers and I thought we had just heard from the Hon. Member for Crowfoot.

Mr. Evans: We heard all we want to hear.

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, I heard from the other side of the House that they had heard all they want to hear. If they would like to go for their supper early, that is fine with me.

There is so much that I would like to talk about at the present time, Mr. Speaker, that I almost do not know where to begin.

Mr. Evans: Try the Bill.

Mr. Malone: Without defending multinationals of any kind, be it General Motors, General Foods or general oil companies, as an Albertan I should like to give some history of what happened in that province.

First of all, Alberta, along with Saskatchewan, felt that it suffered a tremendous injustice in the early part of the century. It was not a province like other provinces. When every

other province became a part of Confederation, one fact was known, that the resources belonged to the provinces. As British Columbia, Manitoba and the Atlantic provinces became part of Confederation, they too knew that the resources belonged to them. That was not the case with Saskatchewan and Alberta. For the first 25 years in the history of those provinces, from 1905 to 1930, the bitter fight around the farm kitchen tables was about how they could be like the rest of Canada.

In those days those provinces took in, through taxes, only 30 per cent of what it cost to run the universities, schools and hospitals. The dominion government kept the right of royalty from all the resources. For the first 25 years in the history of those two prairie provinces, they struggled to become equal with the others. It was in the period following 1930 that cap in hand, time after time, they came to the federal Government of Canada, to James Street in Montreal, to Bay Street in Toronto, pleading for money.

The oil sands are not something new. In the late 1700s the trappers who moved through the Northwest Territories knew that oil was seeping into the tarsands. In their journals they wrote about the oil that was leaking through. Yet in the early history of the provinces when oil came to this country from elsewhere, they did not receive a penny from central Canada. They were the poorest of the "have-not" provinces—dirt poor, never able to be out of debt, until the 1940s. Before that they always ran a deficit. Then Imperial Oil came along and found Leduc No. 1. That was the first bright day in the history of the Province of Alberta.

Today, the NDP talks about the multinational oil companies, spewing hydrogensulphide out of their mouths as they say it, reeking with what we think of as "H₂S" making us believe that these companies are so foul and so wrong. I dare any Member of Parliament or Canadian to go into a supermarket and buy any liquid as cheaply as gasoline. You cannot buy Coca-Cola as cheaply as gasoline, you cannot buy peroxide as cheaply as gasoline and you cannot even buy distilled water for your iron as cheaply as gasoline.

You do not have to drill 80 or 90 dry Coke holes before you get Coca-Cola. You do not have to find a dozen producing Coke holes before you can make Coca-Cola into a Coca-Cola field and you do not have to ship it off to some refinery to crack it, break it down and distribute it to the stations. I am not trying to say that Coca-Cola is just as important as gasoline; I recognize the nonsense of that part of my argument.

Mr. Hovdebo: It is also produced by multinationals.

Mr. Malone: Good morning! I woke up an NDP'er so I am okay after all!

The truth of the matter is that there is efficiency in the oil industry. When my friends to my left say that these are foul multinational oil companies, I wonder why they never attack any other multinational industry—the Royal Bank of Canada or the multinational automobile industry. That is because the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) comes