

Private Bills

Mr. Peters: We were misled.

The Chairman: Shall clause 1 carry?

Mr. Regier: No, Mr. Chairman. I have attended most of the debates on this issue and I have noticed the plea that the committee be permitted to have a vote on the bill. We were appealed to on the basis almost of ethics. We were elected to this House of Commons under certain terms of reference. These terms of reference are contained in the rule book. The rule book that governs the procedure of this parliament is the framework within which we operate. I believe that it is up to the members of the opposition, any time they feel sincerely about any issue before the house, not to heed the plea that every idea or bill introduced in the house be allowed to come to the vote but rather that they should continue to operate within the terms of reference that happen to govern at the time of our election to parliament.

I was very much interested in the remark that we have in the government a branch of the Social Credit party. I had heard previously that there is a branch of the Union Nationale party represented in the government of the day. We now have another branch.

However, to get down to the basic issue, may I say that we are dealing here in this bill with the exploitation of Canadian resources. I have always contended that Canadian resources existed for the benefit not only of Canadians primarily but also for that of all mankind. We as Canadians happen to be in the fortunate position or otherwise of being trustees of this heritage of ours. I do not subscribe to the philosophy of "finders, keepers". I am a great believer in the evolution of economic democracy as I am in the evolution of political democracy. I do not believe that we are fulfilling our responsibility if we subscribe to the idea either of "finders, keepers" or that whoever gets there first ought to be given any particular advantage. I do not believe that it is in the best interests of Canada to hand over to selfish interests the exploitation of any major resource of our country.

I welcome and indeed acknowledge the role of the private entrepreneur on the Canadian economic scene. However, I contend that the day is long past when we can have any major private entrepreneur who refuses to accept responsibility for the welfare of the nation as a whole. At this point I must take occasion to disagree with the otherwise very commendable efforts of the hon. member for Vancouver South, when he mentions that the royalties in Saudi Arabia are as much as that we are fulfilling our responsibility if 50 per cent and that they are negotiating to increase these royalties to 75 per cent. I

[Mr. Howard.]

could mention that there are other places in the world with oil resources where the royalties are even in excess of 75 per cent.

Progress reported.

Mr. Speaker: The hour for the consideration of private and public bills having expired, the house will revert to the business that was interrupted at five o'clock.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Flynn in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Unemployment insurance commission—

699. Administration of the Unemployment Insurance Act—further amount required, \$1,850,000.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. McMillan: I wonder if the minister could tell us something about the present condition of the unemployment insurance fund. How much is in it, and how many securities have been sold?

Mr. Fleming (Eglinton): That, with respect, does not arise on this item. We have given that information as to the status of the fund a number of times this session in reply to questions on the order paper. I think I have given answers of that kind about every two weeks during the session. Here we are dealing not with the unemployment insurance fund but simply with an item for administration costs. As I said this afternoon, there will be an item before us this session with relation to the fund itself.

Mr. McMillan: I think we should have some information as to whether or not there have been sales of bonds this month and, since there has been some weakness in the bond market, whether or not putting a lot of these bonds on the market has been among the causes of this weakness. In addition we should like to know whether or not the recommendation of the advisory committee that the government should put \$133 million into this fund—

The Chairman: Order. I must indicate to the hon. member that in my view these questions are not relevant to the item before the committee.

Mr. Chevrier: I should like to bring to your attention, Mr. Chairman, that we are now discussing the unemployment insurance commission, and in my humble opinion that