

Oil and Gas Production and Conservation

measure, my opinion as to what is most desirable with respect to the composition of the board.

We face the proposal the government has presented to us. Debate on other amendments indicated that, under the circumstances, we feel it would be desirable that most of the decision making on the interim board, as the hon. member calls it, should be in the hands of people fully and directly responsible, through the government, to the people of Canada. I felt that some of the remarks of the hon. member for Northwest Territories were more relevant perhaps to sub-clause 2 of the clause we are considering than to the amendment we are debating.

I express the hope that his concern about the locale of the board and the focus of the board will be dealt with by the committee as a result of powers granted to it under sub-clause 2. I hope the minister will consider it desirable that those people assigned from the public service to serve on the committee will be free to make their own rules with regard to to places and times of sitting, so that they may meet the objectives which were advanced by the hon. member for Northwest Territories. This would tend to make the work of the committee more effective and its decisions with respect to the development of the industry in the north would be more realistic. While the hon. member has indicated his disagreement with the text of the amendment now before us, I feel perhaps that he harbours some fair measure of agreement with the spirit of the objectives we are trying to promote. For this I thank him, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): In my opinion the nays have it.

[Mr. Barnett.]

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

Motion (Mr. Knowles for Mr. Thomson) negatived on division.

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (for Mr. Howard (Skeena)) moved:

That Bill S-29, An Act respecting the production and conservation of oil and gas in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories, be amended by deleting clause 58 thereof and substituting therefor the following:

"(58) This Act shall come into force following a settlement mutually acceptable to the Crown and the people commonly referred to as Indians and Eskimos indigenous to areas now referred to as the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories at the time European explorers or their descendants first visited the areas, and the said settlement relating to lands, resources and other tribal or community property rights of the said people."

• (8:40 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chrétien: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is raising a point of order.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the motion of the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) is in order. I doubt it very much because this amendment has nothing to do whatever with the bill now under consideration. I realize there are problems connected with treaties entered into with the North-West Territories and it is our intention to take the necessary steps to settle them. However, this matter is altogether outside the scope of this legislation which is dealing with the production and the development of the oil resources in the North-West Territories.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to rule this amendment out of order.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): I thank the hon. minister. Is the hon. member speaking on the point of order?

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak on the point of order raised by the minister. If I may be allowed to say so, I think at the moment the minister has a conflict of interest with himself inasmuch as he has responsibility for the people referred to in this proposed amendment.