

*Oil and Petroleum*

our, in introducing this bill in the last session in response to the Middle East crisis, tried to assure Canadians we do have oil and gas. Using that laudable objective, he produced this constitutional deformity which will do more to erode constitutional consultations than anything in the past 20 years. As I said, it makes a mockery of Victoria.

We can forget about constitutional reform. The Prime Minister better not continue to hoodwink the press and the people of this country into thinking he is sincerely interested in constitutional reform or in an amending formula. I could go on with more of these paradoxes of the Prime Minister and this government, but I would get a little emotional.

I was going to be non-provocative tonight because I believed another bill was then being moved forward, but I can see how the Canadian public and the fourth estate, the press, are being hoodwinked, sometimes by the philosophy but more often by the platitudes of the Prime Minister.

When in Brussels the Prime Minister talked about supporting Nato. He knows our support has been at such a marginal level that it makes a mockery of every protestation of support for Nato.

When the wandering troubador called the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Richardson) finally comes back from his Middle East junket and gets out of the casbahs of Tangier and Cairo, he should find out what the Department of National Defence is doing in this country. He should condescend to visit the troops in this country where the majority are, rather than making these headline seeking globe trotting trips to try to shore up a faltering ego. He knows he is not doing justice to defence in this country.

The nationalists talk about sovereignty, *Reader's Digest*, *Time* magazine and *Saturday Night*. The Minister of National Defence and the Prime Minister know that at this time we are not doing anything in surveillance off the east or west coasts compared with what we were doing six months ago. How can we have sovereignty in the north when there will be no maritime command flights in the north until the end of this year? When Canadians appreciate what is being done they will start to wonder how true and reliable are these things.

I have been talking about the paradoxes of the Prime Minister. I shifted to external affairs. I was relating the paradoxes in petroleum and gas and constitutional problems as they sometimes have a relationship to other areas. I notice Your Honour is getting uneasy. I was just getting wound up. I would like to develop that, but I will come back to the subject matter of the bill.

First and foremost in this bill there is the fundamental encroachment on provincial rights. It is a mockery of constitutional reform that should make any parliamentarian, and indeed any Canadian, sit up and listen with a great deal of interest to what the minister proposes in committee to resolve this question.

● (2110)

The Minister should look at clauses 36 and 32 and renounce those arbitrary powers which make him more influential with regard to energy than King Midas was with regard to gold. Of course, there is a difference. Every-

thing King Midas touched turned to gold, but unfortunately when the minister touches things they do not start to gleam and become valuable. They become strange and mixed up. He reminds us of that character in the Li'l Abner comic strip who is followed everywhere he goes by a black cloud. We remember the days when, as "old Thumper", he was demanding changes in the House rules to bring forth a new day. We remember how we battled throughout the long summer heat of July, until finally there was some recognition from across the way and the "Thumper" of that day was put out to pasture.

Here is a government with an anti-industrial bias, whether in the west or in Atlantic Canada, which is forcing exploration teams to other jurisdictions, whether to the south, to the North Sea or elsewhere.

Turning directly to affairs in eastern Canada, let me say that the whole question of jurisdiction over offshore drilling is far from being resolved. No progress has been made. Despite all the powers the federal government presently enjoys in this area there has been no real progress, although attempts have been made from time to time to reach agreement on how yields might be shared.

We in the maritimes believe that offshore mineral rights belong in the first instance to the jurisdiction most directly concerned, though obviously it would be possible to set up a centralized marketing agency charging administrative costs and so on. Yet here we are, moving into a brand new field before any success has been achieved in tactics to reduce a major source of disagreement in this area. Is it any wonder that we in the east are very reluctant to give these powers to the minister, in view of this inability to resolve some of the problems which have faced us for the last 20 years?

As to the proposal to construct a pipeline, I would remind hon. members that my party came out with a firm recommendation that a pipeline should be built from Sarnia to Montreal as long ago as 1969, as a result of a so-called thinkers' conference arranged through the energy and imagination of my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton). I say "so-called" because I happened to be there—greater thinkers than I were present.

I would point out that there have been three wars in the Middle East since 1947. There have been wars in that region right back to biblical times. I do not wish to sound depressing but men have not died peacefully in their beds in the Middle East since the days of Jesus Christ, and I question whether they are going to die peacefully in their beds in the not-too-distant future. Mr. Kissinger, who has been trotting around the globe faster than the Globe Trotters, has not been able to arrange a firm peace in that area, and Canada's own vote in the United Nations when we encouraged the Palestine Liberation Front, allowing them to appear at the United Nations, did not help the situation. However, I shall not go into that aspect of the matter. I suppose the idea of the pipeline will come up again during the next war in the Middle East; perhaps it will start up again before the end of the year.

One of the departments interested in these developments is, of course, the Department of National Defence. It may not do very much under its present minister and perhaps, according to him, it does not have any problems.