Petroleum and Gas

Mr. Malone: —as a result of the NEP, can he tell us how many foreign rigs left the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan?

Mr. Evans: And how many foreign rigs came back into Canada last year?

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, there have been numerous speeches given in this House with respect to rigs leaving Canada. I do not have the statistics on the number of foreign rigs, but I can answer in a general way about rigs leaving Canada. Yes, some rigs left and went to the United States. The fact is that some came back. There was a downturn in the industry as OPEC broke up. This bit about rigs going in and rigs going out is a false means of measurement.

I did acknowledge in my speech that I thought the taxes had hurt the Alberta industry and that there was a downturn in Alberta. I said that in Alberta, and that I thought it was wrong. There was heavy taxation at the beginning that really hurt.

I want to conclude by saying to the Hon. Member that I absolutely disagree with his statement that all Parties agree with Canadianization. He should read the speech of his Leader, the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition is not in favour of Canadianization. He is in favour of Americanization of the oil industry. He is going to open the doors to complete American investment. Once again this will mean up to 70 per cent or 80 per cent control of the industry. That is obvious to me. There is no consensus on Canadianization. The Conservatives do not believe in it. We in the NDP do and I have proposed measures where we could reach it very rapidly.

Mr. Regan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Member if he is serious in the opposition that he has expressed to investments in the offshore, investments that have meant so much for the economy of the Provinces of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Does he really believe that a policy that merely encouraged continued investment in areas where the reserves had been reasonably defined is adequate, that there should not have been any encouragement for the more expensive search, a necessary search if we are to have reserves for the future in the offshore area? I know that the Conservative Party opposed the grants for the offshore in Nova Scotia. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) said in Halifax that he was against the grants and therefore in favour of a policy that would shut down oil exploration in the Halifax area. I am rather shocked to find that the NDP also say that it was an error to establish that program for the encouragement of our offshore exploration.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, that is a good question, but the fact is that I did not say that, I said we should develop first the oil in the western sedimentary basin. It is a cheaper oil to develop. We know it is there. It is not an easy matter. Then we have to ensure our energy security in the long run, which means going offshore.

Perhaps I can say this because I have the liberty. The Minister is very rarely smug, but he is a bit smug right now. The Members from Nova Scotia and the Premier of Nova Scotia have been giving a bit of a clap-trap to the people of that area. They promised them this pie in the sky development, these poor people who are dying for industrial growth because they have been so misgoverned for a long time. They promised them this great oil bonanza. They have the people hooked on that. They think it is the greatest. I dare tell a little bit about the truth. Maybe it is not as big a bonanza as that.

The fact is that we have to explore offshore. Let us be fair with the people. It is going to cost money to go to Hibernia. It is cheaper to buy oil in Libya and Nigeria but we cannot rely on those places. We have to develop the offshore but it is going to be expensive and long-term and dangerous. Let us be honest with the people of the Maritimes and not say that we are against the development. I say let us go with the more economic development first and then expand.

• (1730

It seems to me that the Beaufort Sea is a welfare ripoff for Dome Petroleum. We have not seen one barrel of oil from the Beaufort after all these years. We should go to Hibernia. There is gas in Nova Scotia but I do not think there is oil. There is gas in Hibernia and in the western sedimentary basin and that is where we should go.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I want to take the strongest possible exception to the comment to the effect that the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Mulroney) wants to make an American colony. That remark is unworthy of any Hon. Member in the House. We will become a stronger Canada under our Leader. We will let the Americans come in and invest, but under our rules and our guidance, just as was done in Alberta. We would not have an oil supply today if we had taken that attitude and stopped the Americans from finding oil and gas. Two hundred dry holes were drilled before anything was found. Because it was done under our rules and regulations, Canada is a stronger country. That is what the Hon. Leader of the Opposition will do. He will not make this country an American colony by any means and I strongly object to that type of comment, which is completely untrue.

Mr. Waddell: May I reply briefly?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): No, that was not a question. The Hon. Member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone).

Mr. Malone: Mr. Speaker, first of all I should like the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) to tell us what the price of oil is in Libya. In the spirit of Canadianization, would he also tell us how many service industries in the oil park that went bankrupt as a result of the NEP were foreign and how many were Canadian.

Mr. Skelly: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order. I am reluctant to intervene in a question but there is a point on which clarification by the Chair would be useful. For a Member to stand up and make a comment, especially one so