

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The House has a problem at this point. The motion before us would refer the bill to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works. From the remarks of the government House leader yesterday and the remarks of the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) earlier today, the Chair assumes there is unanimous consent for the motion to be amended to go to Committee of the Whole.

**Mr. Pinard:** You are absolutely right, Mr. Speaker. This procedure will also apply to the next bill to be studied later on this afternoon.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and, by unanimous consent, the House went into committee thereon—Mr. Francis in the chair.

Clauses 2 to 27 inclusive agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

**The Chairman:** Shall the bill carry?

**Mr. Yurko:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to have some short comments from the minister on the two policy positions I raised with respect to the PIP grants for an enterprise like this on provincial lands which are limited to 35 per cent as opposed to 80 per cent on Crown lands. Second, would it be the intent of the federal government to take its 25 per cent ownership share in all projects by this joint enterprise on Canada lands?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Mr. Chairman, first on the question of the PIP grants, they are of a universal nature. They apply equally to all companies, government-owned companies, provincial government-owned companies, federal-owned companies, strictly private companies and co-operatives. We do not believe that those grants, any more than the taxation system, should be of a discriminatory nature. All companies operating in the oil and gas fields should be put on the same basis in terms of taxation and grants. It is not the intent to provide for a special category of grants for this particular company compared to other companies.

● (1450)

On the second point, the same applies in the Canada lands. The 25 per cent share is in compensation for the contribution provided by the taxpayers of Canada for exploration in the Canada lands. As the hon. member indicated, the contributions may go up as high as 80 per cent of the cost of exploration. In return, the people of Canada get a 25 per cent share of any development which will take place. The same rule will apply. There will be no discrimination.

**The Chairman:** Shall the bill carry?

*Garnishment, Attachment and Pension Diversion Act*

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Chairman:** Shall I rise and report the bill?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

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**GARNISHMENT, ATTACHMENT AND PENSION  
DIVERSION ACT**

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (for the Minister of Justice)** moved that Bill C-38, to provide for the garnishment or attachment of Her Majesty in right of Canada and for the diversion of pension benefits payable by Her Majesty in right of Canada under certain enactments, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

**Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State for Mines):** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise in the House this afternoon to introduce for second reading Bill C-38, the Garnishment, Attachment and Pension Diversion Act. Hon. members of the House and perhaps the people of the country will question why I, the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, would be standing to present a bill which appears to be a rather dry bill with no particular human reference. I should like to reassure hon. members of the House that indeed it has a very human effect upon a great many people in our country, particularly women. I urge its swift passage.

I remind hon. members that I feel this bill has been somewhat bogged down for the past two years. Due to the efforts of a number of very active women, including the wives of parliamentarians, we have been able to bring it to the House and I hope to swift passage.

Agents of the Crown, who include in their numbers hon. members of the House, have long enjoyed protection from garnishment and attachment of their salaries. Creditors are barred from pursuing all the normal avenues open to them to collect what is legally due to them, only by virtue of the fact that their debtor works as an agent of the Crown. The effect of the legislation before us today will be to remove this age-old security blanket of Crown immunity for garnishment actions. The rationale for Crown immunity crumbles in such cases, for the action is against Her Majesty in name only. We all know that the real culprit is the malingering debtor.

Just to give an idea of how far-reaching the exemption is, let me list those who are protected by the security blanket in the federal jurisdiction. They include all federal public servants, appointees to boards and tribunals, employees of Crown corporations, Canadian Armed Forces personnel, federally-appointed judges, parliamentary staff, and last but certainly not least, hon. members of the House and of the other place. Again I might add that we owe a great deal to the wives of