

in terms of the wealth of the west. It has nothing to do with the hydroelectricity of Ontario or Quebec. It has nothing to do with the mineral resources of Ontario and Quebec. The principle applies only to the energy resources of the west and of the maritimes. Mr. Speaker, that seems to me to be bad legislation. If we cannot accept universality, then it is bad law. It also ought to enjoy the test of whether or not it gives special attention to something based on likes or dislikes.

The fact that the government has been engaging in a spree of expropriation, of buying or wanting to appropriate energy companies, already focuses special attention on those companies. The legislation we are talking about deals with foreign investors in a special way. I suggest that if this legislation is designed to isolate certain people or certain groups of people for special attention, then it is bad law. I suggest to the government that in this case it is dealing with foreign investors, and most of them are American investors—though not all—in the energy field.

The special attention given to foreign companies dealt with in social programs is what we call racism. Since it has to do with economics and since it has to do with wealthy oil companies, my friends to the left, who are very solicitous about not prejudicing any group of people or any nationality, forget about the fact that special attention is given in a prejudicial way to foreigners in this legislation. It is a kind of racism. It is a kind of economic racism that we are involved with.

I take interest in the resolution passed by the New Democratic Party last July dealing with Canada-U.S. relations. It reads:

A New Democratic Party government will pursue a comprehensive and mature state to state relationship—

I think that is a contradiction of terms. I do not know if it is possible for them to have mature state to state relationship, but that is what they say. It continues:

—mature state to state relationship with the United States based on the principle of equality of nation states. To accomplish this, Canada must cease to deal with United States on a special issue-by-issue or deal-by-deal basis.

That is what their resolution says in terms of Canada-U.S. relations. When it comes to energy, they say:

This involvement—

That is, public sector involvement.

—should include the expansion of Petro-Canada by the purchase of Imperial Oil.

On the one hand they are saying, “We don’t want to deal with a matter on a special issue-by-issue or deal-by-deal basis”; on the other hand they say, “let’s buy Imperial Oil”. We may want to accuse the New Democratic Party of a lot of things, but there is one thing we should never accuse them of and that is consistency of policy or of the application of policy. Forever and a day they have been calling in the House for that kind of resolution.

If we are to have good legislation and if we are to have good law, Mr. Speaker, then we must be able to apply that law universally across the country within the sphere of application of that particular legislation. I suggest the legislation before

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us, Mr. Speaker, does not enjoy that kind of welcome across the country. You cannot universally apply this legislation without prejudicing the property rights of people all across Canada. Because one group of people in Canada happens to be foreigners and happens to be big in numbers, we find their position is prejudiced by the special attention given to them by this legislation. The civil libertarians in the New Democratic Party would not want that to happen in any other area. They only want that to happen in economics. In that sense they are no different from the socialists in the Liberal Party who are promoting this kind of legislation.

I think we need to vote against this provision, Mr. Speaker, and promote the motion before us in the name of the member from Calgary which would balance off that provision.

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I spoke previously with regard to a former motion on Bill C-48. I am pleased to participate not only in the debate on Bill C-48 but in the debate on a particular section of the bill that goes to the heart of the whole energy program that the government announced a year ago.

Let me look at the objectives of the energy program and the objectives of Bill C-48. First of all, it tries to achieve a higher Canadian ownership content in a very important sector of our economy, namely the energy sector. It tries to achieve greater benefit for Canadians in terms of economic rent and profits made by this particular sector of the economy.

● (1620)

The other major component of the bill is the concept of achieving energy self-sufficiency as early as possible, with the goal of 1990. In other words, through this bill and this energy program we are trying to achieve an accelerated development of our energy resources, including those located in unconventional areas of our country and particularly in the north.

In its wisdom the government has decided that it must achieve these goals through ownership and direct government involvement. It aims for ownership and complete control of the energy sector. It must have a means to compete with industry already in the field and it must have a window into the energy sector in order to pursue these stated objectives. It is saying that the regulatory instruments we now have are not sufficient to keep the industry honest and to achieve sufficient benefits for Canadians in the areas of energy development and marketing.

Let us look at some of the regulatory instruments normally used to ensure corporate responsibility, specifically in the energy sector. The multinational oil companies do not drill anywhere on federal or provincial lands unless they are told to. Normally leases are made available to them in areas where we think exploration and development should take place. The leases are put on the market for competitive bids and the oil companies bid on them. In other words, they have been told where the development shall take place.

We could use the same regulatory instruments to tell the oil companies how quickly development should take place. They