

*Canada Oil and Gas Act*

policies in their householders to their constituents. They point out that the new deal will benefit all of us and that there is a new spirit of compromise and co-operation. There is no such thing. The Liberal policies have driven business after business and billions of dollars of investment funds out of this country. I will go into that in more detail in a moment to show what a dangerous piece of legislation Bill C-48 is.

● (1540)

The Liberals, in misleading their constituents, also pointed out:

Canadian consumers are protected from spiralling and erratic OPEC prices.

This is absolute nonsense. We will have to import more and more OPEC oil. We are not being protected at all. The Liberal policy of paying world prices for oil is not protecting Canadian consumers. The Liberals went on to say there will be—

—jobs and opportunities in every region due to energy projects, and new economic growth.

But they neglected to say in their mailings that the growth will be in the United States, not in Canada. In a recent article referring to the NEP and Bill C-48, it was pointed out that both have been a disaster for everyone in the Calgary oil patch but that for some it has been a blessing in disguise. Larry Darling, president of Concept Resources Ltd., said in the company's latest annual report:

At this time we wish to thank the Liberal Government of Canada for its national energy policy.

The Liberals are getting thanks from someone. He continued:

Without this policy Canadian entrepreneurs might have stayed only in Canada and thus would have missed the international opportunities the Liberals so much wanted them to find elsewhere. Without this new energy policy, Canada could not have been self-sufficient in oil by 1990. We are now assured of success, the same success we have with the Canadian Post Office, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Canadian National Railways and Mirabel Airport.

He went on to say:

On a smaller scale, without this policy, Concept would not have found the Givans and Cowans wildcat wells. We would not have opened our office in Denver and Billings.

This was Billings, Montana. He continued:

Finally, had it not been for the Canadian government, we would not have discovered the Hailstone Dome oil field in Montana. Thank you Pierre Elliott Trudeau and your Liberal party followers for your help and assistance in furthering our cause for free enterprise.

Of course, this is in the United States, not in Canada. The Liberals are saying that Bill C-48 and the NEP are good for Canadians. They are not good for Canadians. They are costing jobs and businesses are closing down. Also they are causing one of the greatest booms the United States has ever experienced, going down as far as Oklahoma and Texas, thanks to Liberal policies. Motion 28 in regard to Bill C-48 is just another road block for small Canadian developers. Motion No. 23 in the name of the hon. member for Etobicoke Centre (Mr. Wilson) reads:

That Bill C-48, an act to regulate oil and gas interests in Canada lands and to amend the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act, be amended in Clause 28 by striking lines 13 to 17 at page 16 and substituting the following therefor:

"former lease under which significant or commercial discoveries of oil or gas were made on or before October 28, 1980 or in respect of any interest that succeeds that former lease".

We want to remove this further penalty on Canadian oil companies. I want to make it perfectly clear that we are not talking about a bunch of multinational oil companies. We are talking about Canadian oil companies and Canadian developers.

Recently the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) stated that he foresaw a hard winter ahead because of September jobless figures. He said that it will be a really tough winter with a lot of unemployment. But there will be no hard winter ahead in the United States due to Bill C-48 and the National Energy Program. We are helping its economy immensely with ridiculous socialistic and nationalistic bills. It is all very well that they want to nationalize oil companies and "get" those big, bad oil companies, but taxpayers will have to pay a penalty. Actually these big, bad oil companies are not all that big. They are just small Canadian firms.

In order to provide a further idea of what the energy program and Bill C-48 are doing, a recent article appeared in *The Calgary Sun* entitled, "Oil Patch Brain Drain". It indicated that a stampede of Canada's best oil brains to the United States was under way; that is, according to sources in Calgary and Denver, Colorado. It also indicated that they were leaving because Ottawa's oil policy was forcing small, independent oil firms to cut costs by laying off their technical staff. I fail to see how this helps Canada in any way. This was a report of statement by a Calgary oilman, Mr. John Masters. It went on to indicate:

Masters, president of the Calgary-based Canadian Hunter Exploration Ltd., a half-billion dollar oil and gas exploration firm, has criticized the national energy policy before. But his charges are confirmed by *The Denver Post* which says U.S. immigration is now processing "literally hundreds" of requests for work permits from Canadian oilmen.

*The Denver Post* quoted Jim Hardin, a Denver U.S. immigration official, as saying:

There's been a big rush in the past year . . . we've never had anything quite like it.

I find it strange that the Liberals are not telling their constituents this in their householder mailings. This is what they should be telling them. Instead, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) is leading them around by their noses, and Ed Clark, with a communist background, is drafting this diatribe. Also it reported that 25 to 35 Canadian energy companies opened offices in the nine-state Rocky Mountain region over the past 12 months. Mr. Masters called it "a panic flood of the best technical people in the Canadian oil industry." I fail to see how this is helping us in any way.

We have heard the platitudes and overtones of the parliamentary secretary, but there is never any detailed technical or statistical information. We hear only general statements that the NEP and Bill C-48 are good for us. This is how socialist talk. Anyone who reads about socialism will find out that socialists do not want to confuse with facts, figures and statistics. It is just an endless flow of words which read like a prayer.