

indication that the federal Government wants the activity in the oil and gas sector to continue and strengthen. This is a very sad commentary at a time of high unemployment and of financial difficulty in many areas of Canada. We are concerned about the deficit and where this country is going economically under this Government. What is happening? We are concerned about the downturn in our natural resources and sales. What are we doing about it? We are sabotaging perhaps the natural resources sector that can be most beneficial not only now but in the future. We will lose very valuable time. We will jettison completely the Government's own stated policy of security of supply. I think that is very unfortunate for the country economically and for Canadians individually.

I regret that the Bill is going through. I oppose it. I oppose the idea, the theory, the lack of consideration and the lack of feeling behind the Bill which the Government has shown or not shown as the case may be. I think it is unfortunate. I think a great deal more could be done at this important time to generate activity on the frontier. We are losing an opportunity both for Canadianization of our industry and development of security of supply that we may not get in a great many years.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I want to speak on third reading of this Bill. I will try to keep my comments fairly short because I spoke on second reading, and I refer Members to that speech. I tried in that speech to deal with the history and the analysis of the 25 per cent Crown back-in with which this Bill ends. I tried to deal with the back-in from the point of view that it was not confiscatory but based on logic and that the Government was making a mistake getting rid of it. The arguments presented were flawed. The Government has been lobbied by the large oil companies, and it bought their story hook, line and sinker. I want to say a few words—

[*Translation*]

—the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Masse), the new Minister, the Quebec Minister. I have already come to realize that he is quite clever and, I think, very honest.

[*English*]

He made a couple of points. I want to deal with them. First, he said that the Bill brought in fair and clear regulations to replace discriminatory and arbitrary ones. Yes and no, Mr. Speaker. The Bill itself within the context of what it is trying to do does try to be fair and clear. I agree with the oil industry in that it is entitled to a fair and clear regime from the Government under which it operates.

In return for my agreeing with that principle, I hope some day that the Government will agree publicly with the principle that I espouse. Never forget that resources belong to the Canadian people. They are our resources and not the resources of the oil companies. They are our resources collectively, generally. That is the point from where we have to start. The Government spent through the National Energy Program over \$7 billion in petroleum incentive grants in its new regime. I was here, as were many other Members, when Bill C-48, the

Canada Petroleum Resources Act

Canada Oil and Gas Act, was passed. We had 18 months of debate on that Bill. A mistake was made, and I wish the Conservatives would acknowledge that the NDP did oppose the notion of the PIP grants. We thought the program would be wasteful, and it was incredibly wasteful. You cannot blame companies when loads of money was being dished out. They took it. Second, it shifted the exploration from the western sedimentary basin of Alberta, Saskatchewan and parts of British Columbia to the frontier, to the north, the Beaufort Sea and the offshore. That hurt the western economy.

There was an argument, and I can understand the argument, for some of that because the federal Government is responsible for guaranteeing Canada's energy security. You have to have an energy policy in Canada. It was to find out what was in the frontier. It was also motivated by the fact that former Prime Minister Trudeau considered that he, being the head of the Government of Canada, had power and jurisdiction. Premier Lougheed, the Prime Minister's rival, only had jurisdiction over the Province of Alberta. Mr. Trudeau changed the game so that most of the money went to the frontier that he controlled rather than the areas that Premier Lougheed controlled. I simply want to point out that the New Democratic Party opposed that aspect of the National Energy Program, and it was Premier Lougheed and Prime Minister Trudeau who raised the glass of champagne and made the deal. However, it seems rather ironic that it is all blamed on the New Democratic Party.

• (1740)

The Minister stated that this Bill involved a consultative process with the industry. While that is true, I suggest that there was no full consultative process with the native groups. This was evident in the hearings.

The Minister congratulated members of the legislative committee, including the Member for Calgary North (Mr. Gagnon), who took part vigorously in those hearings. However, I must say that I had to filibuster in the committee in order to have it actually call witnesses and spend some time on the Bill. The Government is not entirely blameless because it wanted to rush the legislation through. It was only as a result of a couple of people, including the chairman of the committee, that we were finally able to hear some witnesses.

If the Government had listened to the native witnesses it would have realized that there is a flaw in the Bill. The Bill attempts to deal with the oil companies and give them permits which will take effect in the 1990s when we will undoubtedly need frontier oil again. At the same time, however, it is forgetting that it is also negotiating with the native people on land claims. In fact, the Government is ignoring land claims as if in wilful blindness.

Earlier today I read into the record a letter that I received from the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut, representing 17,000 Inuit people of central and eastern Arctic. They state in the letter:

This Bill prejudices our land claim negotiations.