

*Canada Oil and Gas Act*

western grain during the depression, when grain prices were much higher than everywhere else in the world and subsidies were set up to help western farmers. Prices were even higher in Canada than anywhere else to help farmers to sell their grain. Later on, it was oil and the Borden line because of which people in Ontario had to pay more for their oil than other Canadians.

● (2010)

There has always been a time in Canada when someone paid a bit more for a shared resource. For young Canadians, there is nothing worse than to hear representatives of each party or group of citizens throughout the country try to emphasize the egoistic aspects of such an issue, because when a province has an important resource and expects benefits from it, it wants to keep it for itself. This is what is happening in Newfoundland now. The same thing happened when Quebec wanted to claim Labrador because as we now know, there are important resources in Labrador. However, what young Canadians want to see in this country is a sense of sharing rather than not a war among leaders. Yet, what is now happening in Canada is indeed a war among leaders, a war among premiers.

We saw this again recently at the First Ministers' Conference and when the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau) took part in the latest Federal-Provincial Conference in September: The provinces still wanted a bigger share of the pie, but without sharing their own resources with Canada as a whole. This is where we have a problem in Canada, because we do not consider the population as a whole, but rather each of the provinces. As for us, as the government of Canada, we were not elected to represent a region. We were not elected to see to the next election, but to see to the welfare of the nation and of future generations. In this regard, what does Bill C-48 do? It gives the Canadian government, our government and our Parliament, certain powers over Canada lands to manage more effectively and more rationally the resources of the country, the heritage of 100 years and the guarantee for the Canadian people of a secure future.

When we read—and this is important—the exact provisions contained in Bill C-48, we are surprised that the other side would oppose it because, far from stripping the country, of its resources, the purpose of the bill is as follows:

To regulate oil and gas interests in Canada lands and to amend the Oil and Gas production and Conservation Act.

Do we agree or not that we are living in a country where wealth must be redistributed, even though we might have to find the proper mechanism to do so? Basically, this is somewhat of a paradox, but Canada is perhaps one of the rare countries where two problems can be well identified. We have great wealth in this country and a resource sharing problem. We do not know how to share, how to be fair. All we know is how to grab this wealth, how to keep it for ourselves without

allowing the Canadian government to share it among all Canadian men and women.

That should be elementary for anyone, man or woman, sitting here in this Parliament and we should be able to reach a consensus easily. As for me and the generation I represent, what disillusion us increasingly is the sight of artificial conflicts, conflicts based strictly on absolute power or the power to grow richer at the expense of other Canadians. I say that without political prejudice because in Quebec we had a referendum that was undeniably an extremely painful experience since we criticized each other in search of reasons, which often turned out to be excuses to score a point, but always at the expense of the whole community.

I heard the hon. member for St. John West (Mr. Crosbie) say this afternoon that Newfoundland needs its offshore resources to do away with the equalization payments and because it wants to grow richer. That is what Canada wants for each one of its parts, allow it to grow richer, but not at the expense of the Canadian people as a whole. I have a strange feeling that there are 12 countries in Canada, two territories and ten provinces and if anything is left over, then it can be given to the federal government.

When we have transportation problems, and I see the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) is here in the House, everyone turns to him, beginning with me, asking him for very costly things about which it is sometimes very difficult to tell whether they are needs or whims; no one ever hesitates to turn to the federal government to ask for more. But when the time comes to put something in the central pot, one's share of the pie, everyone objects; and it is stranger still to see the Newfoundland premier go to the federal government asking it to request of Quebec that it allow an energy corridor through its territory, while at the same time asking the federal government not to touch the offshore resources under the pretext that they belong to his province. In other words, they use double standards. As I understand it, the Progressive Conservative Party, when they were the government, were in the position to realize that over a nine-month period. They had difficulty getting into an agreement, they could not even agree with Alberta on a pricing formula at the time. They could not agree either with Newfoundland on a program that would have been acceptable to both parties. But now they would have us give everything to each province under the pretext that this would facilitate an agreement. This is out of the question, it is a matter of attitude. As far as I am concerned, I am first and foremost proud to be a Canadian, and I recognize that Quebec and the other provinces should contribute to the central treasury, the central budget, the Canadian treasury to allow for redistribution. I cannot agree that a province or a region be allowed to monopolize the whole amount, claiming it as its own.

I think Bill C-48 is clear on that. Let us put aside the legal question of who owns the 200 miles of coast, let us now factually examine what the Minister of Energy, Mines and