

*Petroleum Administration Act*

trees, grain, steel or oil will ever make us. We share a place in a difficult and uncertain world. We share a future which we owe to our children and to generations which will follow. We would be untrue to ourselves and to those who will follow if we were to fumble away the great opportunity we owe them.

A nation, then is more than an amalgam of soil, more than its natural resources, greater than a collection of rocks and trees. It is an abstract notion, it is the aspirations and dreams of the people who populate it. To reinforce and encourage those dreams, a country must be seen to have a future. In such a context, the responsibility of the national government is very important to Canada at this stage. The government must reconcile sometimes competing hopes with the realities which prevail. Canada's history has been one of sharing and helping the various regions, which, for one reason or another, do not have an equal share of the natural resources of this country. It is a difficult task, for our constitutional history dictates that natural resources are the property of the provinces in which they are found and no person on this side of the House would have any great argument with that principle. Nevertheless, all members on the government side share a common belief in the responsibility of the national government to see that no region of this country is left out of the wealth and opportunity which these resources bring. At one time or another, a different region has had its moment in the sun.

To make the idea of Canada work, however, it is important for us to recognize that equality of opportunity has not existed in equal measure throughout this land. On more than one occasion, I have stated that I entered politics and that I belong to the Liberal party because I honestly believe that sharing has been our history and will be our future.

In the past few years, many of the government's efforts in Canada have been directed toward bringing the economic promise of Canada to all of its people. No matter where a Canadian chooses to live, he or she must be guaranteed equal access to the wealth and opportunity which is his or her birthright. Without challenging provincial supremacy in the field of resource ownership and control, the bold and forward-looking national energy program announced October 28 is an example of the way in which the government has attempted to bring Canada to Canadians. Important aspects of the national energy program will see that Canada has a greater stake in the future of its energy supplies and that Canadians will have a greater role in participating in that future. The program has rejected an export tax on natural gas. That is a concession which the federal government need not have made; its right to tax resources for export is very clearly spelled out in the present law.

To ensure that Canadians will participate in their own energy future, the national energy program sets out a policy which will seek to increase the level of Canadian ownership in the vital oil and gas sector of our economy. To ensure the security of our energy future, the NEP will encourage the movement away from oil to more plentiful sources of energy. Finally, the government will seek to redistribute its share of

the energy wealth to all Canadians in order that all may participate in our country's immeasurable good fortune.

I will seek to clarify some of these points in order that this debate may illustrate to Canadians just how fortunate we are. Sometimes it is said of Canada that Canadians do not understand one another, that we are not very good listeners. A. R. M. Lower, in an article published last September, made the point that because of our good fortune, we Canadians must resort to inventing problems in order to have something to fight about.

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In many ways this fight over resources is an excellent case in point. The very real concern about Alberta's dwindling oil reserves has somehow broken down into an argument over regional grievances and has obscured the point that the national energy program suggests policies to account for this eventuality. Without fully understanding the facts on either side, people in the various regions of the country begin to eye each other suspiciously, so much so that some Canadians may genuinely feel uncomfortable in regions of the country other than those where they were born and raised.

Political differences have begun to take on human faces, and we have witnessed the sad sight of certain people from producing provinces accusing all easterners of being rapacious carpet-baggers and some people not living in the producing provinces regarding their Canadian cousins as greedy and not caring for the well-being of all Canadians. Proximity to natural resources has now become a measure of one's loyalty and degree of Canadianism.

On the sideline of this sorry spectacle are those who would wish to exploit this anxiety for their own savage political gain, and here I speak of the new western separatists. I will speak about their threat to our future at the conclusion of my remarks because I am genuinely concerned, as are all hon. members in this House, that differences over dollars might become the issue which divides this great country.

I rose today to speak, first of all, about some aspects of the energy policy which need to be reiterated in this House. I will begin with the national energy program's initiatives in the area of Canadianization. Speaking before a New York City audience recently, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) told his audience that it has become a matter of great concern to Canadians that so much of our energy resources is under control of foreign interests. He spoke of the incongruity of a major industrialized nation yielding so much of its heritage and its future to people outside its borders. He spoke about the very great need for Canadians to take some control over their future. As the minister pointed out, no country of Canada's stature could tolerate the degree of outside control which prevails in Canada's oil and gas industry. Indeed, no nation does so. The vast sums of profit and capital presently shipped offshore must remain in Canada if we are to develop our own oil and gas resources for Canadians.

The Canadianization element of the national energy program is essential in order to guarantee Canada's energy future.