

Mr. Waddell: It is with respect to the role the Government should be playing. I notice the taxes in the Bill exempt investments and enhanced oil recovery from the PGRT. In other words, there are some breaks in terms of enhanced recovery. Enhanced recovery does not simply mean conventional oil. Wells have to be dug deeper. There have to be different methods. They have to go into things which are not tar sands but are heavier oil and so on. As the Hon. Member to my right might point out if he were asked—

Mr. Malone: Your far right.

Mr. Waddell:—we have a Saudi Arabia of oil in Canada. It is not necessarily off the coast. It is in the heavier oil deposits along the border between Saskatchewan and Alberta. If we develop that area, as we will some day, we will find plenty of oil. However, it will be costly to develop. Unfortunately, we sold out most of our conventional sources at cheap prices. They are gone. We made that mistake. This other oil will be expensive to develop. That is what we should be doing. To the extent that the amendments to the tax helps the enhanced oil recovery, they are good amendments.

● (1720)

I have spoken on two aspects. I do not know whether I dealt with Mr. Laxer completely. Maybe I can summarize what I said. It would not have been right for the New Democrats to have supported the National Energy Program with those kinds of flaws. I do not believe I have said this before, but during the height of the pricing disagreement, the struggle between Premier Lougheed and the federal Government when Alberta was shutting off the tap and there was the problem of national unity, seeing that my Party represents both western and eastern areas I felt it incumbent upon me to try and work out a policy with respect to pricing.

I went to Edmonton and I also went to the Government of Saskatchewan, which was then an NDP Government. I met and worked with them as well as the NDP leader in Edmonton, Grant Notley. We sat down and negotiated an oil deal. It did not matter in the sense that we did not have power, but it mattered in that we started to understand all the difficulties. I say to Premier Lougheed and to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) that it was not easy. It was very difficult for them, having to do the real thing. We tried to negotiate a blended price. The Liberal price was a blended price. I agreed with that.

I will wind up with this, Mr. Speaker. We took this pie and we said that if the provinces want world price for their share, they get world price, and if the federal Government wants less than world price for its share, it gets less than world price. We worked out a price. Unfortunately we never had to apply that price. We tried to work out a deal. That was very important in the interest of national unity.

I say to Mr. Laxer and to others that the New Democratic Party, representing both the east and the west, was together on its energy program. That was politically important. I am pleased that we were when I was energy critic, and we still are.

Petroleum and Gas

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order, please.

Mr. Waddell: May I conclude with one sentence?

An Hon. Member: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): There is not consent. I heard a "no".

Mr. Skelly: Mr. Speaker, I feel that the presentation by the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) was excellent.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Evans: Surprise, surprise!

Mr. Skelly: It was the one important and constructive contribution that has been made in the latter hours of this debate in Parliament.

Mr. Malone: Mirror, mirror on the wall.

Mr. Skelly: After delving in detail into the topics that he discussed, does the Hon. Member have any conclusions that he would like to draw from the presentations? Are there any conclusions that he has?

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, to be fair to other Members, I will try to conclude in one sentence.

Mr. Malone: Thanks for the fairness.

Mr. Waddell: The other day in my community office a student asked me about the PGRT and the National Energy Program. It goes out and out and out. There is so much to discuss that it is difficult to bring it into something that is understandable. I tried to deal with some of the good aspects of this Bill, some of the difficulties with the PGRT, what it means in the context of the National Energy Program, why we needed the National Energy Program, the flaws in the National Energy Program as I see them and the difficulty of getting an oil price deal. It was more difficult than what the Member thought. I should not have criticized the Hon. Member for Northumberland (Mr. Hees) in the way I did. Sometimes one's tongue runs away. The Hon. Member is a senior member of this House. However, neither should he have left before I had anything to say.

What I wanted to say to him in conclusion, and he can read it in *Hansard*, was that while you can say world price or let the free market fix it, you cannot say that about oil. It is very difficult. That is why we are dealing with a very difficult tax statute here.

Mr. Malone: Mr. Speaker, had the Hon. Member not said what he did about the Hon. Member for Northumberland (Mr. Hees) at the start, he would have had a full speech without any comment from me. Bearing in mind that he spoke in favour of Canadianization, an objective that I believe is the goal of virtually every Party in this House—

Mr. Ferguson: You should tell your Leader that.