

Canada Oil and Gas Act

out of the country. They cannot go to any other country, but the Canadians can, and they are going in droves. Louis Rukseyer, an American analyst, wrote an article in the *Houston Chronicle* entitled "Thank You, Canada". In it he talks about what a great boon to the United States this national energy policy has been.

Skilled geologists, geophysicists and engineers are going to the United States in large numbers. They are taking with them billions of dollars, all kinds of machinery and rigs, and talent. Walking around Denver today is like walking around Calgary five years ago. Several large office buildings are under construction, being built by and filled by Canadians. This government has done more for the economy of Denver than the United States ever has. It has done more for the economy of Denver than it has for the entire eastern half of this country.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his allotted time has expired.

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[Translation]

THE ROYAL ASSENT

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): I have the honour to inform the House that a communication has been received as follows:

Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Julien Chouinard, Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 17th day of December, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,
Madam
Your obedient servant,
Edmond Joly de Lotbinière
Administrative Secretary
to the Governor General

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[English]

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill C-51, to amend the Clean Air Act, without amendment.

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CANADA OIL AND GAS ACT**MEASURE RESPECTING OIL AND GAS INTERESTS**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Lalonde that Bill C-48, to regulate oil and gas interests in Canada lands and to amend the Oil and Gas Production and

Conservation Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

Mr. Roy MacLaren (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to comment on the speech of the hon. member who spoke immediately before me. There will be opportunity to deal with some of his points when the bill is before the committee. However, I should say that it is inappropriate in this House, and not in accordance with the traditions of either this House or of the provincial legislatures, to attack public servants, and especially to do that by name. The policies which are embodied in this bill and more generally in the energy policy are policies of the government. The minister, the cabinet and the government generally are responsible for those policies. We do not need to have public servants named and attacked in the House of Commons.

● (1650)

Speaking to the bill itself, Bill C-48, which we have before us, we are dealing with the development of Canada lands, an area of Canada which is more than twice the size of the ten provinces combined, an area of approximately 1.5 million square miles in the territories and the Arctic, and 2.5 million square miles offshore.

Those areas are essential to the energy future of Canada because they contain, or are thought to contain, much of the oil reserves which will enable Canadians to enjoy an energy security that is unparalleled in the industrial world.

We have before us a bill which recognizes the importance to move more decisively and more rapidly toward the development of those new and additional resources. We have before us a bill which takes into account and further elaborates the previous practices developed during an earlier period of Canada's energy history.

Members will recall that when the question of the development of our offshore and Arctic resources was first brought forward, there was an abundance of cheap energy, an abundance of cheap oil. At that time it did not seem to any Canadian that there was any particular urgency to develop the Canada lands. Those were areas of Canada largely unknown in terms of their energy resources. The practices of the government of the day were to permit the licensing of exploration in those areas in what today would seem to be an unnecessarily leisurely fashion.

More than 20 years ago we had exploration practices in place which would allow the interested companies to take licences which enabled them in effect to sit on the land indefinitely, at very little cost, and with no real commitment to exploration or development. Clearly that situation, as the world energy problems increased, became more and more unsatisfactory. Recognition was given to that unsatisfactory state of affairs by the government through developing, in consultation with industry, a new policy which would have accelerated the rate of exploration and development in the