

Oil and Petroleum

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): —all interested in one thing only, keeping a united voice in order to keep a Prime Minister in power who is destroying the basic economic health of the country.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Just reserve that genuflection for the proper place, my friend.

I have in my hand a front page story from the *Montreal Gazette* quoting the Premier of Quebec on the question of energy. He says that the federal government has simply the role of a customs officer. The premier says that he is in a position of power. He was referring to resources belonging to the people of Quebec. Yet we see members of this House representing ridings in Quebec selling their province down the drain by their support of the budget. The effects of the budget are plain. No province can impose a tax on land which—

● (1720)

The Chairman: Order, please.

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier (Sherbrooke): On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Is the hon. member for Sherbrooke rising on a point of order?

Mr. Pelletier (Sherbrooke): Mr. Chairman, I should like to put a question to the hon. member.

The Chairman: It cannot be done without the consent—
[English]

The hon. member is seeking permission to ask a question.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Chairman, may I thank the hon. member for seeking permission, although I wish he had given me an opportunity to complete my remarks without interruption.

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier (Sherbrooke): Mr. Chairman, I simply want to know whether the hon. member would entertain my question?

The Chairman: Order. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton) has answered that he does not wish to be interrupted, which means that he is not prepared to accept the question. Since he has the floor, he is entitled to continue.

[English]

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Chairman, the truth is hurting hon. members opposite.

Mr. Pelletier (Sherbrooke): Say what you think, but you don't think about what you say.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Chairman, I know the hon. member has no knowledge of the history of this country. He does not know what the great members of parliament from Quebec have done over

the years in this House. He is selling the people of Quebec down the river, just so that he can remain a faithful soldier of the Prime Minister. The government has expounded its philosophy in this bill. It intends, unilaterally, to interfere with taxes any provincial government may impose on land, forests, mining and oil. It is trying to pretend that this bill is an attack on the people of Alberta and Saskatchewan only; it is not. It is an attack on people in every province. That is why the premier of Quebec knows he must fight. That is why every member from Ontario and from Quebec who supports this bill knows that he stands on the wrong side of this question.

During the past year the province of Ontario passed a law for taxing excess profits taken by speculators in land. The federal government said that the amount of such tax paid will not be considered as a deductible expense for purposes of income tax. Under section 109 of the British North America Act land, resources and royalties are the property of the people of the province concerned. The government has said that the tax on land—

The Chairman: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member; however, he has used up the time allotted to him. He may continue only if there is unanimous consent.

Some hon. Members: Continue.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Chairman: Although there is no consent for the hon. to continue, no other member is standing up seeking the floor.

Mr. Foster: Mr. Chairman, I listened with great interest to the hon. member. Although he did not spend much time talking about clause 2 of the bill, his intervention was most interesting. He suggests that this bill is not valid because one party to the agreement of March 27 no longer supports what was agreed to then. One of the most important features of the bill is that it gives the government power to pay compensation to the five eastern provinces of this country, and this guarantee will lapse on December 31. I do not think hon. members opposite who represent ridings east of the Ottawa Valley, ridings which are beneficiaries of this clause in the bill, want to see a filibuster. I suggest that they want the bill to pass as soon as possible, because its provisions are as necessary now as they ever have been.

The hon. member talked a great deal about resources being seized by the federal government. That was just claptrap. No one questions the rights of provinces to own their resources. Of course they own them. Yet, if one examines the British North America Act, one will find that the federal government has authority to tax by any means it chooses. We are not talking here about the ownership of any resource; we are talking about the taxation of corporations. I do not think that point has been made effectively.

When the hon. member spoke on the National Energy Board report, I thought he said that it is an encouraging report as it indicates positively that there are supplies of oil in this country. I suggest that we should move on to other clauses of the bill, rather than talk about non-relevant matters.