to defend, fight for and encourage that kind of behaviour. However, I will vote for this kind of legislation". Anyone who could do that is not worthy of occupying a seat in this House of Commons.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Pursuant to Section 11 of Standing Order 75, the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

Pursuant to an order made earlier by Madam Speaker, the House will consider now Motion No. 25 standing in the name of the hon. member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore (Mr. Wilson).

Mr. Harvie Andre (for Mr. Wilson) moved:

Motion No. 25

That Bill C-48, an act to regulate oil and gas interests in Canada lands and to amend the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act, be amended in Clause 31 by striking out lines 44 and 45 at page 18 and lines 1 to 10 at page 19 and substituting the following therefor:

"31.(1) The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, prior to the commencement of the terms of an exploration agreement for relevant Canada lands, may direct that the Crown share be transferred to a designated Crown corporation and, where the Minister so directs, he shall forthwith give notice to the relevant interest holders.

(2) Where the Crown share has been transferred to a designated Crown corporation, the Crown share shall be deemed to have been converted to a working share and the designated Crown corporation shall negotiate the terms of a working agreement with the interest holder.

(3) Where the Crown corporation is unable to settle terms of a working agreement, the matter of a working agreement shall be submitted for arbitration in the manner prescribed or, in the absence of applicable regulations, the matter shall be submitted for arbitration in the manner provided for by order of the minister, and the arbitration shall take into account the economic and financial viability of the working agreement on all parties to such agreement and, subject to section 56, the arbitration decision is final and binding."

He said: Mr. Speaker, Motion No. 25, which you dispensed from reading to the House, seeks to amend Clause 31 of the bill. The purpose, intent and impact of Motion No. 25 is fundamentally to change the Crown share from a carried interest to a working interest. What that means is very simple. As the act currently lays it out, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) and his co-conspirators can seize 25 per cent of the assets held by private Canadian corporations. That 25 per cent Crown share which the minister can steal can be turned over to Petro-Canada or another Crown corporation. I already talked about the immorality of that theft.

The bill goes on to compound the theft because the Crown now has a 25 per cent share which it has stolen from the private sector. Its share is different from the shares that other people have. Its share is a carried interest. What that means is that the Crown, Petro-Canada or some other Crown corporation, owns 25 per cent of a particular exploration program. It can vote. It has 25 per cent of the votes when you are deciding where to drill the well, whether to run a seismic, what sort of testing to conduct, or whether to develop or put in production platforms, and so on. It is their vote. It is a carrying partner and therefore does not put up a nickel, it does not put up any money. The corporation's cash is not on the line, but it sits there as a full voting partner.

● (2100)

I would ask my hon. friends opposite to think about whether they would go into a business deal in which they decide how the assets of this syndicate, or whatever they are involved in, should be spent. I would ask hon. members if they would appreciate or voluntarily accept a partnership arrangement with full voting privileges and not have one nickel resting on the outcome of the decision. I would ask the hon. members opposite to use common sense and to think about that for a moment. Think about how conducive that is to good decision-making on the part of the consortium. Think about the prospects of having a partner sitting at the table with full voting rights who has no money at stake. Especially in this circumstance, Mr. Speaker—it is hypothetical but not extreme and not unlikely—where there is a piece of land involving some private companies and Petro-Canada, and they have to make a decision as to where to drill the well. Anyone who knows anything about the oil and gas industry at all, Mr. Speaker—and you do not have to be an expert—knows you have to make a decision as to where to drill the well. Your geologists and geophysicists come back to you with their guesstimates—that is all it is, a guesstimate—of what are the geological features, which is the most likely place where oil and gas will be found, and where is the most reasonable spot to drill your first well.

One never knows what is under one well so you know you will drill more than one well. You start off and make various asessments, such as the cost of drilling here versus there, geology here versus there, the likelihood of discovering gas, oil, salt water or what have you. There are many factors that go into the decision-making. Let us assume you are sitting down with your partners trying to make a decision and one of your partners is Petro-Canada, which happens to own or have rights to a piece of property right next door. Mr. Speaker, the executives of Petro-Canada, if they are interested in their