

Canada Oil and Gas Act

the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) last March in Toronto, as reported in the June-July issue of "The Canadian Forum". The minister said when talking about the Liberal party:

We saw that since 1974 the oil and gas industry has been a net capital exporter. In spite of all the rhetoric about how much we needed the multinationals and about how they were doing such great things for Canada, all the money that they were spending in this country had been raised inside Canada, out of the Canadian taxpayers and the Canadian consumers, and that since 1974 the industry had been a net exporter to the tune of about \$3.7 billion . . . We also saw that the decisions affecting the future of the oil and gas industry and therefore the well-being of all Canadians were being made by foreigners in the corporate boardrooms of the foreign parents—

And my experience in the last year as a minister has demonstrated beyond any doubt that when it comes to the issues that count, those decisions are made where the control is, and that is outside of Canada . . . I suppose you can blame us for not having seen it before, and indeed I still knock my head on the wall every once in a while and say why didn't we do it ten years ago? . . . but that's no reason to abandon the task that's ahead of us.

It is touching to imagine the minister knocking his head on the wall, bemoaning his failure to act and the failure of the government to act in past years. This is something which he shares with millions of Canadians who have been gouged by the oil companies, those who have suffered from past decisions of the government. As they face the consequences of the government's policies over the last ten years, they too want to bang their heads against the wall.

But the minister is not being completely candid when he pretends that he has only seen the light of nationalization in the last couple of years. The 1974 Liberal election platform promised a 50 per cent to 60 per cent Canadian ownership for all new energy projects. But of course, being part of the Liberal election platform does not guarantee very much. I remember reading a story about the late Right Hon. Arthur Meighen who at one point defended a policy which he thought was important. Someone shouted from across the floor, "That is in the Liberal platform." Mr. Meighen said:

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to hear it. Had I a wish dearer to my heart than all others, the worst fate I could fear for it would be that some day it would get into a Liberal platform.

We feel that way about some of our programs. We see the Liberals adopting the rhetoric of them but not including any of the substance. The Liberals are the great accommodators. They pick up a few progressive ideas from members of the New Democratic Party, a large measure of reaction from the Tories and bring them both together into a bureaucratic stew, and no one knows what it is.

The minister laments the failure of past policy decisions by the government. He admits that these decisions have not served the needs of the Canadian people. But ten years ago New Democrats were urging the government to obtain control of the oil industry for the Canadian people. Today we are showing the inadequacy of the present legislation. We would like to see some movement which will provide for a larger measure of public ownership, stiffer regulations to identify Canadian ownership with Canadian control, an increase in the percentage of that ownership before companies can obtain maximum benefits, guarantees for Canadian content in spin-off industries, and explicit protection for aboriginal rights and

for the environment. Also we would like to see more emphasis on renewable energy and conservation.

We want to see some movement on these things in this bill. Otherwise, ten years down the road Canadians will be paying for these mistakes just as they are paying for past ones today and Liberals, if there are any left, will be saying, "It was an honest mistake". It will not be an honest mistake; it will be a stupid mistake. I urge support for Motion No. 22 to increase the Crown share from 25 per cent to 50 per cent so as to give the Canadian public some protection from profit seeking and to ensure that some of the benefits of the oil industry stay with Canadians.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker)—Government of Canada—Decentralization program. (b) Justification for program; the hon. member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie)—Industry—Location of Aerospace Training Centre Institute. (b) Request for commitment to Winnipeg site; the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton)—Wildlife—Export of falcons to Middle East.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CANADA OIL AND GAS ACT

MEASURE RESPECTING OIL AND GAS INTERESTS

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-48, to regulate oil and gas interests in Canada lands and to amend the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works, and Motions Nos. 21 (Mr. Wilson) and 22 (Mr. Waddell).

Mr. Roy MacLaren (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, under the motions now before the House we have heard considerable discussion both at an earlier sitting and today about the Canadianization of our petroleum industry. I want to take this occasion before we move to the vote on the motions now before us to clarify some of the major concerns which have