

*Oil and Gas Act*

find that in this country he has denied the basic approach which might lead to the development of a feeling of brotherhood between ourselves and the aboriginal inhabitants of what is now Canada.

Through the white paper on government policy he has denied the very essence of what is required for the development of brotherhood between those of us of European descent and the descendants of the people who were here before our forefathers arrived. I find it strange that the Prime Minister could have had that reception among these people, when at home our own aboriginal people are speaking in terms of a government policy which is moving toward genocide. I hope that the Prime Minister in fact meant what he said when he said he had learned something in New Zealand. This gives us all the more reason for delaying the coming into force of this bill, which I am proposing—

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I have been listening to the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett). He is making a statement about aboriginal rights, but I note that just a few minutes ago Your Honour ruled out an identical motion dealing with aboriginal rights, an amendment proposed by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard). I wonder if the hon. member for Comox-Alberni should not address himself to the bill, rather than to the question of aboriginal rights.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** I thank the minister and I have to advise the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett) to restrict his remarks to the bill or to the amendment.

**Mr. Barnett:** Mr. Speaker, that is precisely what I am doing. As usual, when the Government House Leader rises on a point of order he manages to put his foot in his mouth. I am stating reasons why the coming into force of this bill should be delayed until July 1, 1972. Despite the needless interjection of the Government House Leader, that is what I am talking about. I am not discussing the amendment which was ruled out of order. I am giving reasons why the coming into force of this bill should be delayed. That is the point to which I was addressing myself.

I was about to say that the incident in New Zealand to which I have referred lends all the more point to the desirability of our accepting this amendment because it would, in that interval, enable us to see whether the Prime Minister was prepared to act in good faith on

his return to this country and take action which would lead to that kind of brotherhood and put into practice some of what he said he learned in New Zealand. Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to pursue this question at unnecessary length. I think I have made the principle point I have in mind, and I state quite bluntly that this is the one and only reason for my putting this amendment forward to bring about a postponement of the coming into force of this bill.

**Mr. R. J. Orange (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to what the hon. member had to say about aboriginal rights. I would like to remind him and other hon. members that on June 27 last year we passed Bill S-29, the title of which was "An Act respecting the Production and Conservation of Oil and Gas in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories." The amendments before us today deal with the control of oil exploration and development off our shores in the seas of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

• (8:20 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker, there is urgency about this legislation in that already off the east coast of Canada we have considerable activity. I am not certain what this amendment intends other than to delay effective government action in relation to management and control of oil exploration and development in the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean off Canada's coasts. I cannot understand the tenor of the hon. member's remarks. To my way of thinking they have absolutely nothing to do with the legislation before us. I fail to see where the amendment is meaningful. I do not really want to say this about a member of the NDP, but if this legislation is not passed the oil companies will be able to carry on activities which would not be in our national interest.

In my view, Mr. Speaker, the amendment has no meaning to this act. I think it is thrown in to create a red herring—or a pink herring—and it is not acceptable to the government.

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

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

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