

which is also of concern to the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger). Like the hon. member for Wetaskiwin, I am anxious to pursue the matter of the export tax, and to do my utmost to ensure that 50 per cent of the export tax collected in the period when it was shared equally by the federal government and the provinces is returned to producing bands. This matter is being pursued with provincial governments. The Department of Finance is the department which will negotiate for these funds with the provinces.

May I now speak to the amendment. There are three changes proposed. The first makes it clear that royalties are paid to the Crown to hold on behalf of the bands concerned. There was never any other intention, and this amendment puts into more specific language that which would have taken place in any event.

The second amendment puts into the bill the commitment to consult the Indian bands most directly affected. I am committed to consultation, as is the government. There is a great and growing reliance on consultation as a necessary adjunct to the management processes, to ensure that those affected are directly involved. I will be pleased to see our commitment enshrined in law, for it will make certain that the future will follow the course this government has pioneered.

The remaining amendment ensures that the bill cannot interfere in any way with settling claims in areas where there are no treaties or the Indian title has not been superseded by law. It is a safeguard, probably not required, but better to have than to wish for, if circumstances should change from those which I now anticipate.

With passage of this bill the way will be clear for the Indian people whose reserves are producing oil and gas to reap increased benefits. This is a vitally important factor that cannot be overlooked by the House. The Indian people stand to gain substantially from the resource which lies beneath reserve lands. It is a resource peculiarly and specially related to the modern economy.

We are often told of the damage that our society has done in the past, is doing in the present, and is likely to continue to do in the future. These warnings are often overstated. But obviously there is an element of truth to them. Nevertheless here, today, we have an opportunity to see that some of the advantages of the modern economy flow to the Indian people. When the treaties were signed on the prairies, few thought of oil and gas in the treaty areas, and no one foresaw the impact of technology on this natural resource. This bill ensures that the bands benefit fully from society's use of this non-renewable source of energy.

This bill, as members know, provides for higher royalties which reflect the new situation in oil and gas. It provides for the bands to be consulted about changes in the royalties and regulations which may become necessary as the oil and gas situation changes, and it has changed rapidly in the last few years. The bill ensures that the Indian people will get their full and rightful share of returns from this unique and valuable resource.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Health and the Environment

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

* * *

FIRE LOSSES REPLACEMENT ACCOUNT ACT

AMENDMENT TO EXTEND APPLICATION OF ACT

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development) moved that Bill C-18, to amend the Fire Losses Replacement Account Act, as reported from the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the bill be read a third time?

Some hon. Members: By leave, now.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Buchanan moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

* * *

ALBERTA-BRITISH COLUMBIA BOUNDARY ACT, 1974

MEASURE TO ESTABLISH COMMISSION TO DELINEATE BOUNDARY

[*English*]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved that Bill S-13, respecting the boundary between the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, as reported (with an amendment) from the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When shall the said bill be read the third time?

Some hon. Members: By leave, now.

Mr. Sharp (for Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale)) moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

* * *

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS ACT

MEASURES TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT FROM CONTAMINANTS

The House resumed from Tuesday, November 19, consideration of the motion of Mr. Sharp (for the Minister of the Environment) that Bill C-25, to protect human health and the environment from substances that contaminate