

Oil and Petroleum

Instead of giving them to the United States, let us sell them materials and manufactured products so that our dear friends, the Americans, may proclaim loudly that Canada allows them to go on living. These guys down there cannot live without the natural resources of our country. If we want to become masters in our own house, I think this bill represents a step forward. Let us say to the Americans that we are willing to sell to them but that they will have to pay us. Let us stop them from suckling Canadians. Let us tell them that they will have to pay for the work done by Canadians to serve them the Americans.

It is not because we have a grudge against them or because we hate them. No, we like them. It is because we care for them that we ask them to pay for what they take from Canada. Pay for the work done by Canadians, pay so that workers, farmers may be satisfied; pay so that Canada may be itself and so that the government may be recognized as sovereign.

● (1810)

[English]

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I cannot take part in this debate without making a brief reference to the comments just concluded by the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette).

[Translation]

As it is not right to say that Mr. Lévesque speaks on behalf of the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette), it is not right to say that Mr. Harradence speaks on behalf of all of us Albertans, especially if he talks as mentioned by the hon. member.

[English]

Having said that, I wish to advise hon. members of my concern about the danger that exists, in the sentiments referred to by the hon. member for Témiscamingue, in that in my native province of Alberta feelings might become extreme and serious if there is a continuing belief that it is the repeated thrust of federal policy to go against the interests of that province—just as there was the danger in the province of Quebec of civil unrest spreading when there was a feeling that federal policy was designed to go against the interests of that province. It is important that we recognize, in dealing with the legislation before us, that there is a real feeling that the major thrust of this legislation is directed against the two producing provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan. There are other aspects of the bill, of course, but there is a real sense that the constitution is being changed in an effort to diminish the authority now enjoyed by those two producing provinces. If that sort of thing continues, I think members from my province, and probably those from Saskatchewan, would agree that there is a danger that we will find ourselves in a situation where the determination to remain a creative part of the Canadian confederation will wane in that part of the country.

I do not intend to take up a great deal of time in this debate, particularly because many of the technical aspects of the bill have been discussed and many of its implications, not simply for the petroleum industry and the province of Alberta but also for the people who work in the industry and count upon the capacity of Alberta to industrialize in a secondary industry way. I share the view

expressed by my colleague, the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger), that there is a real sense of insecurity now among my constituents with regard to living in the oil patch, as to how long they will be able to continue living in the towns where they are now, as well as how long the industry will continue to be there.

The point I wish to make with regard to this legislation is primarily with reference to the degree to which it represents an extension of federal power, an intrusion into the provincial domain. This bill, as has been noted by many others, is a change from the predecessor bill considered in the previous parliament. It is not, as was the other one, a temporary means to implement an agreement reached by heads of government. Instead, it is now a permanent means by which, to quote the minister himself at page 917 of *Hansard*, "the federal government will give itself increased powers". The excuse that the minister uses—he used it earlier in his remarks, as recorded at page 915 of *Hansard*—is that this extension of power is necessary "to provide for oil price restraint in situations where either such agreements cannot be reached or, having been reached, are terminated or are found not to be effective." The danger with that rationale is that it removes from the central government the incentive to come to agreement with the provinces on questions of this kind, and it also grants a most dangerous unilateral power to the federal government to act alone when agreements are not effective and consequently when it is in a position to use the increased power which it seeks in this legislation.

What we have here, when everything else is stripped away, is an attempt to acquire unilateral power to impose a price control system on a commodity regarding which primary jurisdiction has been vested in the provinces, under the Resources Transfer Act, since the 1930s. What is most frightening about this bill is that it does not stand alone; it follows similar action taken in the recent past and it sets a frightening precedent for the future, not only for the provinces directly attacked now, namely, Alberta and Saskatchewan, but for all provinces. The point has been made that this new, extended power would apply not only to oil and gas, and not just to Alberta and Saskatchewan, but to other resources in other provinces, at other times. What has perhaps not been emphasized enough is that this attitude of invading provincial jurisdiction is evident, not just in this bill but in other actions of the government, most notably actions concerning oil and gas but also potential actions concerning other matters over which the federal government has or might be able to concoct some kind of jurisdiction. It is important to note that this bill is part of a pattern of aggression against the petroleum producing provinces regarding the control of their resources. The point has been made several times, but I believe it needs emphasis here, that these are depleting resources and also they are the only means by which Alberta and Saskatchewan can develop the kind of secondary industry base which will ensure the maximum contribution of these provinces—provinces with great potential—to the strength and development of Canada.

I think I should mention, in passing, that another difference between this bill and the preceding legislation on this subject was considered in the last parliament is this: at that time there was general agreement about the need for some kind of *quid pro quo*; that if we were going to