

*Canada Oil and Gas Act*

it is 48 per cent, or 55 per cent, or 30 per cent, or 75 per cent. Can you wonder that the oil and gas companies are leaving this country in droves? The reason is that this Parliament is no longer effective because all the power has been given to the minister and to the government. I will not go on much longer reading clauses in this bill but there are 100 instances there. Just look at clause 45 to see if this carries on throughout the act. Clause 45 reads:

The minister, at any time after making a declaration of significant discovery, may order the drilling of a well—

The minister? What does the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources know about the drilling of wells? He knows as much about that as he knows about drilling a tooth. He has the responsibility under this bill for ordering where a well is going to be drilled. On and on it goes through this act. You think that as members of Parliament you decide? You no more decide than Mickey Mouse decides what goes on in the government. Clause 46(1) reads:

Where the minister is satisfied that a commercial discovery has been made on Canada lands, he may, by order subject to section 56, make a declaration—

It goes on like that throughout this bill. So, Mr. Speaker, one of the three safeguards of democracy has gone. This Parliament is no longer a safeguard for democracy and the bill before us exemplifies that. What is the second safeguard needed for a democracy? It is a division of powers in a federal state between the federal government and the provinces. That will go if the government's constitutional proposals ever get through to the United Kingdom and get passed in the United Kingdom. No longer will we have a federal system in this country. Who do I quote for my authority? I quote Sir Wilfrid Laurier, back in the days when they had Liberals who had some principles and guts. They do not have them any longer. Sir Wilfrid Laurier was one of the few good Liberals. He said this:

The only means of maintaining confederation is to recognize that within a sphere assigned to it by the constitution, each province is as independent of control by the federal Parliament as the latter is from control by the provincial legislatures.

● (2040)

Well, that goes out the window if the constitutional proposals are passed. That goes out the window if these energy proposals ever effectively become law in this country, because they can only effectively become law by crushing the province of Alberta and the western provinces. That will terminate and end this country. So, Mr. Speaker, there is the second safeguard of democracy that the Trudeau administration is determined to block out with its constitutional proposals and its energy proposals.

The third safeguard of democracy is to have a viable, strong, operative private sector. That is what is necessary for a viable democracy. Where you do not have a private sector you have no democracy. You have no democracy in Russia. You have no democracy in China. You have bills of rights, charters of rights, the rights are coming out of your ears in those countries. But do you think anybody has a right to anything in those countries? Not at all. Why not? Because they have no economic base from which they can exercise rights. It exists

not only in those countries but in Chile and in many other countries. What is happening in this proposal and in the others of the energy policy? A savage smash and grab raid on the private sector of this country starting with the oil and gas industry. It is a massive interference by the state, a massive interference by the bureaucracy into the most free enterprise, the most risk-taking of all the industries we have in Canada—the oil and gas industry. An industry where you have to go looking. You look at a hundred thousand square miles and you say: I am going to put a well down here. That is not the decision of some bureaucrat here in Ottawa. They do not know where the hell to put a well. No, that is the decision of the people who are putting up millions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of dollars. They have to use their brains and the instincts they have gained from 20, 30, 40 years of scrabbling in the wilderness—the geologists, it is they who decide where to put the well. Now, hereafter, they will be put under the jurisdiction of Mr. Lalonde and the bureaucrats as functionaires. They will tell him where he is going to put his well and what he will get if he puts his well there. They will say: If you put your well here we will give you a grant in the frontier or the Beaufort Sea, but if you put your well here we won't give you a grant. Before, with the system of depletion allowances everybody knew where he stood. "All right, you go and drill your well. You will get a certain amount of depletion and you will get certain benefits. You will receive help from the system." You made the decisions. But from now on, when this is passed, that will be no longer. No, some functionaire from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources will tell you: "You put your well here, brother, where I tell you and then you might get a grant." That is, if he does not decide, when you come back looking for your grant later on, that you are not 50 per cent Canadian-owned, you are only 49.6 per cent or only 49.99 per cent or you are only 74.5 per cent Canadian-owned. That is all to be decided by the civil service and the bureaucracy of this country. Do you wonder that they are bailing out, Mr. Speaker, that they are leaving this country in droves? What else does the government have to offer them? They have got the Hon. Herbie Gray and FIRA to offer to them. We are told the Foreign Investment Review Agency will supervise what goes on here with the foreign-controlled companies in the future. They will bring legislation before the House so Herbie can come in once you get into Canada and you invest your money. All right. You are found to be of significant benefit to Canada. That is not enough. No, now, in a year's time or two years' time, the Hon. Herbie Gray will come to look over your shoulder and say: You jerk, you do not know what to do with your own money. You are not doing the right thing here. This is not of significant benefit. I, Herb Gray, the great free enterpriser, the great expert in everything, am going to tell you how your business is to go in the future. You have got to get out of this country. That is what they are being threatened with. Now do you wonder, Mr. Speaker, why the dollar is weak? The dollar is not weak because of interest rates being higher in the United States and lower here in Canada. It is weak because anybody with any brains in their head can see that their money is not welcome in Canada. We