

*Petroleum Administration Act*

must ask, "Should the provinces have control and ownership of the resources?" The answer is yes, because it is in our constitution, although the section needs further clarification.

**Mr. Siddon:** Does Dave Barrett agree?

**Mr. Waddell:** I will tell the hon. member what Dave Barrett wants in a few moments. If he would listen, he might learn something.

**Mr. Siddon:** I am listening.

**Mr. Waddell:** I put the second question to the hon. member in order that he may think about it for a little while—when he does take the time to think. It is, "Does a resource become so valuable that the federal government should interfere with provincial control of that resource in order to distribute it more fairly?" Premier Lougheed once said that the government would not interfere with the oil industry if it were in Ontario, but that is only one side of the argument.

I have thought about this matter a great deal, and I believe the answer must be, "Yes, the federal government can interfere". But the government must interfere only in an extraordinary situation and it must be perceived as acting fairly. This situation will come up again. I say this to my friends in the Atlantic provinces, who will have to make some of these basic decisions and face these issues when and if, as I hope, gas and oil are discovered in large quantities off Newfoundland in the Hibernia field.

I would like to quote from a speech made by Allan Blakeney, the Premier of Saskatchewan, at the annual conference of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council in Halifax on October 25, 1976:

—we in the west and you in the Atlantic region must face the fact that political power in Canada is now and for the foreseeable future concentrated in Ontario and Quebec.

Neither the Atlantic region nor the west can expect the federal government—whatever its party stripe—to take the initiative in introducing the basic structural reforms that are needed to encourage more balanced regional development. . . . Westerners feel aggrieved by recent efforts to change the rules of the confederation bargain, that is:

—to change the rules on who should benefit from natural resources, which were supposed to be our source of wealth—

—to change the rules on tariffs and transportation.

The west, like the Atlantic provinces, because of its dependence on natural resources, is subject to chronic instability of prices and markets and wild fluctuations in local economic circumstances.

And like the Atlantic region, the west is dependent on an efficient transportation system to move its goods to distant markets, and it suffers, as you do, from the anomalies and inequities that are so much a part of our freight rate structures.

In that speech Premier Blakeney was dealing with some of the real grievances of the west, not the negative grievances raised by members of the Conservative party in recent speeches. He was dealing with the real western grievances concerning transportation tariffs and so on. A poll was released this week by the Canada West Foundation, representatives of which testified yesterday, I believe, in front of the joint committee on the constitution. That poll shows some interesting results. The voices of western Canadian grievances

are not in reality represented by what I call the fascist oil company types. The people of western Canada support increased federal government and provincial government action in the energy sector. They support that. I think that is important. Seventy-eight per cent agreed that oil companies are making excessive profits. Forty-eight per cent disagreed. Only 38 per cent agreed that the federal and provincial governments have enough control over the oil companies. Seventy-four per cent agreed that too much of the money Canadians spend on oil leaves the country by way of oil company profits. Seventy-four per cent believe that the federal government should increase its involvement in exploration and refining. Even in western Canada there is a feeling that the federal government has a role in exploration and refining, and that it can become involved in what is otherwise a provincial resource.

● (1600)

Canadians living in the west want very much to remain part of Canada. However, they feel they are getting a raw deal. Sixty one per cent of the people disagreed that the federal government has made a genuine effort to overcome the problems of discrimination against the west. Eighty four per cent agreed that western Canada gets ignored because political parties depend on Ontario and Quebec for most of their votes. Sixty five per cent disagreed that western Canada derives so few benefits from being part of Canada that it might as well go it alone. Ninety per cent prefer that the western provinces remain part of Canada. That is a sampling of opinion which shows overwhelmingly that Canadians living in western Canada want to remain a part of Canada. But they do feel they are getting a raw deal. Lawyers have the expression "justice must not only be done, but it must seem to be done". In western Canada they do not feel justice has been done in the sense of the federal government dealing fairly with the issues, such as tariffs, transportation rates and a host of other things.

I can tell you how deep the feelings go, Mr. Speaker, even on what would otherwise be little things. Here is an example. Canada played Mexico in a soccer game as part of the World Cup series. More countries participate in the World Cup than in the Olympics and 108,000 people watched that game in Mexico City. Yet hardly any notice was taken of the World Cup in eastern Canada. The CBC televised the game at an awkward hour. Football, or soccer, as it is known here, is very important to the average individual in Vancouver. That is just an example of a little thing people complain about. These little things build up into bigger things, such things as transportation, tariffs and other matters.

Another interesting poll was published in the *Edmonton Sun*. On November 13, 1980, this question was asked: how satisfied are you with the performance of Joe Clark and the Conservatives in the recent dispute between Ottawa and the provinces? Satisfied: 45.5 per cent. Dissatisfied: 54.5 per cent. It is clear, too, that westerners do not like the attitude of the Conservatives, which is a completely negative one in this constitutional debate.