

Canada Oil and Gas Act

to try and bring Newfoundland to its knees by cutting back federal spending, by treating the province with shabby manners, insulting statements from federal ministers about provincial ministers and the like. It is a disgusting exhibition of bullying and arrogance of the worst type.

Now, Mr. Speaker, on September 5, 1979 the then prime minister, now Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark), met with Premier Peckford. Then on September 14, 1979 a letter, which my confrere the hon. member for St. John's East has referred to, was sent which outlined four principles to resolve this whole issue. If we had continued in office, the offshore issue would be settled now. There would be substantial progress toward developing the Hibernia oil field. This is another example of how this government's arrogance, stubbornness and wrongheaded policies are holding up self-sufficiency in oil and gas for Canada.

An hon. Member: Another failure.

Mr. Crosbie: As long as this dispute continues, the development of Hibernia and other fields is going to be delayed. Another failure. The Cold Lake failure. The Alsands failure. The economic failures. The hypocrisy of their economic policies. Oil rigs leaving the country.

Today the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) gave us one of his best examples of reptilian arrogance, reptilian bootheeling. You could hear his jackboots cracking on the floor of the House as he explained how he represented all Canadians, he and only he, and his government. They do not represent the Canadians who live in my district, they do not represent me, they do not represent the west at all. They are arrogating unto themselves the idea that they represent all of the Canadian people. The premiers do not represent anyone, just the people in the provinces. Well, it is the ten provinces that make up Canada, and those ten premiers together equally represent the people of Canada—

Mr. Lalonde: They cannot agree. What can they agree on?

Mr. Crosbie:—not just the members elected to this House. This is a confederation, Mr. Speaker, not a unitary state. This is not yet a Liberal dictatorship, even though they want us to carry on as if it were.

The minister said Newfoundland should be—he said “should be”—a major beneficiary of offshore development. Thank you, Mr. Lalonde. Thank you for these small mercies. I am sure your fellow cabinet minister, the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Rompkey), and the four other Liberal members from Newfoundland are saying to you every day, “Thank you, Mr. Lalonde.”

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Crosbie: They are tipping their caps to Mr. Lalonde.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Minister. Thank you, Mr. Minister.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I am sure hon. members get carried away and forget that hon. members should be referred to by their constituencies and not by name.

Some hon. Members: Carry John away.

Mr. Lalonde: Carry him away.

Mr. Crosbie: They are saying every day, “Thank you, Mr. Minister.”

Mr. Evans: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder if the hon. member, at the end of his speech, could take ten seconds and summarize the important points he has made.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, that shows you why that gentleman is a parliamentary assistant; that is the highest he is ever going to reach. He is never going to get one centimetre higher. In the metric system or in any system in the world, that parliamentary assistant will never go one iota higher.

The gentlemen of the NDP are used to discordant singing; they had a lot of it out in Vancouver at a recent convention.

An hon. Member: Ask Benno Friesen. Where is Benno Friesen?

Mr. Crosbie: Where is he?

An hon. Member: He was there.

Mr. Crosbie: We do not have all that long to speak in this debate, Mr. Speaker, and I probably have only—

Mr. Knowles: We have all summer.

Mr. Crosbie: Well, we do have all summer unless the government listens to reason, and probably they will.

An hon. Member: Don't bet on it.

Mr. Crosbie: The minister referred to the maritime agreement. Well, that was entered into by several Liberal administrations in the Atlantic provinces which have been swept out of office.

Mr. Lalonde: The Hatfield—

Mr. Crosbie: The Hatfield administration. I will not say any more than that about that. When the Buchanan government came to power in Nova Scotia and the new PC government of Prince Edward Island, that was the end of this maritime surrender agreement entered into by those Liberal governments. It was terminated because they were no longer going to go along with that. They are hoping the hon. gentlemen opposite will come to their senses.

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Hatfield—

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Hatfield can speak for himself. He certainly appears to do that.

We are not happy with this bill. The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) suggested we were. We