

*Canada Oil and Gas Act*

Our aim, Mr. Speaker, is to achieve 50 per cent of Canadian ownership in the Canadian oil industry by 1990, and this is an essential facet of the National Energy Program. Our goal is to ensure that Canadians receive at least half of the direct benefits generated by the growth of an industry whose cash flow will quadruple over the next ten years. Clearly, that objective meets with our economic expectation and can only have benefits for Canada. More important still, benefits should be maximized. A constant supply of "reliable" oil and gas would be ensured long term by a stronger Canadian presence in the oil industry. And this includes a stronger and larger presence of the public sector in the industry.

So this is what we are doing at the government level to improve this country's energy position. But our National Energy Program also calls upon the individual Canadian to pitch in. We are doing this through two major programs that would conserve energy and reduce the costs to home owners. The first one is the well known CHIP program. As parliamentary secretary to the minister responsible for the administration of that program, I am proud to state that it has been one of the most popular initiatives taken by this government over these last few years.

This program is part of a federal scheme designed to check the growth of energy consumption by improving the insulation of homes. Subsidies are granted for insulation purposes to owners and tenants of homes in three-storied or smaller buildings. In April 1979, the terms of the program were amended, so that 100 per cent of the material costs up to \$350 and one third of the labour costs up to \$150 are now eligible. Related expenses are also eligible, such as those incurred for weather-stripping, caulking, ventilation of roof space, thermal blinds, bedded protection for lighting fixtures. The eligibility date was set at 1961 for all provinces.

[English]

That could happen to anyone; anyone can lose his breath.

[Translation]

Thanks to these changes, this program is in much greater demand.

[English]

I remember the first time I heard an hon. member on the other side do exactly the same thing as I just did.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, up to November 1980, the federal government has paid to Canadians over \$261 million in subsidies under this program. So we urge Canadians to conserve energy by converting their oil heating system to electricity or natural gas. In order to inform the people about conversion, I should like to give the following example: The owner of a building with four individual heating systems may, if he so wishes, convert those four systems into one central system and be automatically eligible to a 50 per cent grant up to \$3,200, and so on for each

individual system. Of course, this federal offer is subject to the federal-provincial agreement.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I sincerely believe that the energy policy put forward by our government is one of the best ever introduced in this Parliament. The people in my riding as well as all Canadians will be able to take advantage of this program. We may rest assured that the future will show that we were right even though the official opposition is critical of our proposal.

● (2040)

[English]

**Mr. Friesen:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Savard:** No.

**Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate in the debate on Bill C-48, "An act to regulate oil and gas interests in Canada lands and to amend the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act". I do so primarily as the environment critic for the official opposition. My pleasure is not because this bill is a sound one from an environmental principle point of view. The bill is, in fact, an affront to environmental principles. In a few moments I will be elaborating on that point. Other hon. members on this side will be giving learned analyses of the various shortcomings of the bill in total.

For my part I would like to concentrate on those aspects, and there are several, which relate to the environment. Generally, the bill seeks to impose new rules for oil and gas exploration and development on federal lands in the north and the offshore areas. These rules dictate the terms for the leasing of Crown lands for oil and gas exploration and development, for the participation by the federal government in such initiatives, for licences to private oil and gas companies involved in Crown lands, for royalty payments, and for the compulsory production of oil and gas under specified conditions.

Finally, there is clause 49 which concerns the environment. Basically, clause 49 establishes a revolving fund, the Environmental Studies Revolving Fund. As I see it, it is really two funds which are to be composed of mandatory contributions from companies participating in oil and gas exploration or development on Crown lands. The total amount is not to exceed \$15 million. Incidentally, the draftsmanship of this particular clause—and, I think, of the bill in general—is terribly shoddy. For example, it is not clear in clause 49 whether there are two funds or one fund; whether the \$15 million is for each of the funds or whether it is a total of \$15 million for the two funds together. I presume, however, that what we are talking about is a double-barrelled single fund totalling \$15 million.

In any event, the purpose of the fund or funds seems to be to finance studies relating to oil and gas-related enterprises on Crown lands, presumably of an impact assessment sort. If I may quote subclause (6) of clause (49), it reads: