

very narrow it should not be a vehicle for launching a full-scale investigation into the gasoline industry. On the other hand, I believe there is need for a full-scale investigation into the price of gas; in one part of Ottawa you may pay 44 cents per gallon, whereas only a few blocks away you may pay between 50 and 55 cents per gallon for the same type of gas. We all know that these cut-rate outlets purchase their gasoline from the same bulk tanks. The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Basford) should look into this situation.

• (4:40 p.m.)

The hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Anderson) spoke about the problem of pollution. Some hon. members may feel there is a problem of gas pollution in this chamber this afternoon. There is certainly a problem with regard to the amount of lead in gasoline; in fact, it is a potential health problem. Some research has been carried out on animals pastured close to heavily-travelled, public thoroughfares. When testing the serum they are able to determine which animals are pastured near heavily-travelled, public thoroughfares by reason of the amount of lead in the animals' blood.

The Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the general public should be assured that higher prices are not being charged for gasoline which, although it is more expensive to produce, does not have more value. I do not want to talk out this bill or to do anything to prevent its passage.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for South Western Nova (Mr. Comeau).

An hon. Member: Don't be a Liberal.

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member says, "Don't be a Liberal". In the two years that I have been here the only private members' bills that have been sent to committee have been those introduced by Liberal members.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that at this stage he should discuss this bill and not bills which may have been considered in different ways in the past. I suggest that at this stage his contribution should be limited to the bill before the House.

Mr. Comeau: I agree with what Your Honour has just said. I made that remark because I feel it is important. The bill simply requires that gas stations post signs on their gas tanks to indicate whether they are selling low, regular or high-test gas and also the octane content. What will happen?

Mr. Borrie: Nothing.

Mr. Comeau: Exactly. I have had seven years of university training as a physicist. I have done some chemistry. The word "octane" does not mean very much to me. Holy smoke, Mr. Speaker—

National Trade Mark and True Labelling Act

Mr. Pepin: That is right. It means "holy smoke."

Mr. Comeau: —what good will it do to post the octane content on gasoline tanks? Will Joe Smith from Yarmouth understand how it affects him? He is really only concerned about the price of gasoline. If the government requires gas stations to post these signs, the gas companies will have to hire men to do this work and the price of the gas will be increased another cent per gallon. I am opposed to this bill. I do not think it will do anything good. The gas companies will say that they must increase the price because of the cost of installing these signs.

I think it is very important to have a high octane ratio in gasoline. I think this should be checked by the distributors who supply the gas stations. This matter could be handled by the gasoline inspectors in the provinces. If the gasoline inspectors are doing their job, they can assure consumers that they are receiving the proper grade of gasoline. If it is not up to standard, we should be so informed by the inspectors. I do not see how the consumers will benefit from information that the gasoline they purchase contains a certain amount of octane. If the situation needs correcting, the inspectors should investigate the gas being delivered by the distributors. I cannot see that this bill will help the consumer other than—

An hon. Member: Nine minutes to go.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): What is the message?

Mr. Comeau: It is a joke between the whip and I. This bill is not very elaborate; it contains only one paragraph. I am not going to speak at length on it because I believe that merely posting a sign will not benefit the consumer. The inspectors must provide the necessary checks to ensure that the gas has the proper octane content. The hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis) and other hon. members may have purchased gasoline which does not give their automobiles the usual amount of pep. By posting a sign, the problem will not be remedied. We should make sure that the gas is properly inspected and brought up to the required standard. I think other hon. members want to speak in this debate, so I will resume my seat.

• (4:50 p.m.)

Mr. Bell: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Comeau: Yes.

Mr. Bell: As one who I know has watched provincial rights quite jealously, coming as he does from Nova Scotia, would the hon. member agree with the contention put forward by the Parliamentary Secretary a few minutes ago that this bill is really an infringement on provincial matters and, therefore, we should not let it pass this afternoon before finding out a little more about the jurisdictional problem that might be created if the bill were passed?