

that will be called before the committee to give evidence. We are very pleased about that.

I would like to briefly discuss the role of Petro-Canada in connection with Motion No. 218. Petro-Canada has done a considerable amount of work in evaluating the potential of octane enhancers, especially methanol. It has conducted several joint studies on methanol with Celanese Canada Inc., the most recent of which was managed by the Ontario Research Foundation and involved 60 vehicles being driven in typical owner-operator situations. The results of these initial studies indicate to Petro-Canada that there are still some unresolved concerns over the use of alcohol blends in Canada. It is also not clear that the sale of these blends would be financially advantageous to the company. Again, those who have been involved in this research would make excellent witnesses before the committee. I am sure that the chairperson will be happy to call these witnesses in order that we may have the benefit of their advice. I might also point out that through the recent Gulf acquisition, the research facility at Sheridan Park in Mississauga has now been obtained. Of course, we have been assured that broadened fuel research can take place there.

● (1750)

The Government believes that Petro-Canada should compete in the market-place on the same basis as all other oil companies. This means that Petro-Canada will receive no special support from Government. It also means that the managers of Petro-Canada must be free to make management decisions based on their best assessment of market demands. If these fuels prove to be commercially and socially attractive, we believe that Petro-Canada will want to take a lead role in marketing them.

However, the present wording of the motion limits the feasibility of producing and distributing for sale these additives through its Crown agency, Petro-Canada. If this is found to be beneficial for Canada, I believe that all companies dealing in these products should be included in this. Therefore, I move:

That the motion be amended by deleting the words "through its Crown agency, Petro-Canada".

The remaining words in the motion should remain.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paposki): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion (Mr. McDermid) agreed to.

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a few words in support of the motion. Let me begin by congratulating the Hon. Member for Kent (Mr. Hardey) for presenting a very timely motion to the House.

In the time remaining, I would like to concentrate on a certain portion of this proposal. Needless to say, we all recognize the importance of a proposal which has the possibility of producing a new petroleum product which would mean less acid rain emission. We also recognize the importance of

providing an alternative fuel source, bearing in mind that petroleum resources are naturally limited.

What is of particular interest to me is the possibility that this study and the use of this particular fuel supply can provide an alternative market for agricultural products. I want to talk particularly about an experiment which is currently under way in the Province of Manitoba and on the Prairies. It involves a company by the name of Mohawk which, since 1982, has been selling a product called gasohol in the Province of Manitoba. Since 1984 it has been providing a product in the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan by the name of EM Gasohol.

It is of particular interest to us in the Province of Manitoba that Mohawk is producing the ethanol which is the key product of gasohol in the neighbouring constituency of Portage-Marquette in the community of Minnedosa. It is of particular interest this year that Mohawk at this plant is able to take advantage of and make use of agricultural products which have been severely damaged by bad harvest conditions. For example, in the fall of 1982 there was a severe frost which affected the corn crop. Mohawk was able to make use of that corn, even though it was damaged. It found an important economic use, regardless of its quality.

Since then, in the same plant in Minnedosa, the company has been experimenting with the use of sprouted barley, sprouted rye crop and considering the possibility of making use of feed wheats which, unfortunately, will be far too available this fall.

I also understand that there is a possibility that the company can make use of waste cheese whey. Should this experiment prove to be successful, we might have the ability in western Canada, if not all of Canada, to develop a domestic market. All of us who are concerned about the future of agriculture in Canada are very conscious of the fact that we have been too dependent on export markets for our agricultural products. Anything that we can do to increase domestic markets, particularly alternate domestic markets, is very clearly to our advantage.

You come from the great Province of Alberta, Mr. Speaker, and many Members come from western Canada. They are intrigued by the possibility of making use of scrub poplar as well as scrub spruce as a source of alternative supply.

Therefore, the economic advantages are extremely interesting. For those who may not have had an opportunity to make use of this particular product, as a casual customer I believe the market acceptability of gasahol is improving with the passage of time. However, I must confess that the automobile which I drive back and forth to the airport in Winnipeg is of such vintage that I cannot tell whether or not it is performing better when I use gasahol. However, others tell me that it is so.

Furthermore, the fact that this product has a built-in anti-freeze is certainly of some advantage to those of us in western Canada during the winter. Although the time allotted for this subject is not as much as it should be. I look forward to this subject being referred to committee. However, I think you will find, Mr. Speaker, that there is an inclination in the House