

National Energy Board

put it this way, to the policing of the Criminal Code which Customs has to do.

Examining this on a yearly basis is a superficial examination, as the Hon. Member knows since she was in committee. More properly, it should be addressed by the Ministry of Justice. I hope Members opposite would reconsider their opposition to this particular Bill.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the legislative committee who dealt with this matter in a very thorough and expeditious manner. I look forward to the passage of Bill C-17.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those in favour of the motion will please say ye.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): In my opinion the yeas have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

• (1130)

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Recognizing that the New Democratic Party has forced the vote, Your Honour will find that there is unanimous agreement among all Parties to defer that vote until 6 p.m., when there is another deferred division scheduled.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, what I think the Whip of the New Democratic Party is trying to do is save the House a little bit of time. If the bells were to ring, then we would defer the vote until this evening at 6 p.m. when there are other votes scheduled. However, if we can do it without the ringing of the bells, and with the concur-

rence of all three Parties, then on this occasion I think that that would be appropriate.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I thank the chief government whip for that very specific detail. The bells have not started to ring. Therefore, we can do anything with unanimous consent. However, if the bells had started to ring I would have invoked Standing Order 45(5), which gives either the official opposition whip or the chief government whip the privilege, I could say, to approach the Chair and to ask Your Honour to defer the vote until 6 p.m.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it agreed that we shall not ring the bells and defer the vote until 6 p.m. this day?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

* * *

NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. Jean Charest (for Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved that Bill C-23, an Act to amend the National Energy Board Act and to repeal certain enactments in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I am rather disappointed that the Government has not seen fit to have someone from its side to introduce this Bill, particularly since this is second reading.

It is a very important Bill, although the Government would have us believe differently. The Government describes Bill C-23 more or less as a Bill to do some housecleaning points with respect to the National Energy Board. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that it is a great deal more than just a few housekeeping points with respect to the National Energy Board.

Bill C-23 has tremendously far-reaching implications for our country. It will change dramatically the way in which we will allow exports of electricity from our producing provinces into the United States. To a large extent it will affect the regulations and the conditions under which consuming provinces will be able to receive electricity from the producing provinces.