

Energy, Mines and Resources

That Bill C-102, to amend the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources Act, be amended in Clause 1

(a) by striking out line 18 at page 3 and substituting the following therefor:—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but what I offered him the opportunity to do was to ask for the unanimous consent of the House to put his motion before the government motion. That is what I am prepared to deal with now, if that is all right with the hon. member.

Mr. Waddell: Yes, that is what I ask.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway seeks the unanimous consent of the House to place his motion ahead of the one which will be presented by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Does the hon. member have unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Now either the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway or the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Kristiansen) may address Motion No. 6.

Mr. Waddell moved:

Motion No. 6

That Bill C-102, to amend the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources Act, be amended in Clause 1

(a) by striking out line 18 at page 3 and substituting the following therefor:

“not less than ten members of the House”

(b) by striking out lines 38 and 39 at page 3 and substituting the following therefor:

“than five hours and, on the conclusion of such debate or at the expiry of the fifth”

Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I will speak very briefly on what is a rather minor amendment to substitute the number ten for the number 30 which is contained in Bill C-102 as it is now.

A negative resolution is one of the options which will be available to us under this bill. In other legislation the number of members required to call for a negative resolution is ten. For example, Section 52 of the Petroleum Administration Act allows ten members of Parliament to present a negative resolution if they object to the unilateral setting of oil or natural gas prices by the government. The amendment we are putting forward seeks to amend a provision the government agreed to in committee, and that provision would reduce the number from 50 to 30. Our amendment proposes to reduce the number required to initiate a negative resolution from 30 to ten. That seems eminently reasonable to us. It is consistent with other legislative practices. Before the government can act, Members of Parliament should be afforded a better opportunity to fulfil their legitimate functions.

The second part of the amendment would delete the reference at page 3 of the bill to a maximum of three hours' debate and institute in its place a maximum of five hours' debate. The clear reason for that is to ensure that while there is not an

unreasonably long and dragged out debate, this House, Members of Parliament and the people of Canada would be protected. Three hours on a Wednesday—or three hours on a Friday especially—would provide very little opportunity to bring about any public recognition of the issues involved.

We propose this amendment for those two basic reasons, and I ask hon. members to support it.

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

Some hon. Members: Question.

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

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

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

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): In my opinion the nays have it.

Mr. Andre: On division.

Motion No. 6 (Mr. Waddell) negatived.

Hon. Yvon Pinard (for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved:

Motion No. 3

That Bill C-102, to amend the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources Act, be amended in Clause 1 by striking out lines 9 to 50 at page 3, lines 1 to 49 at page 4 and lines 1 and 2 at page 5 and substituting the following therefor:

“(2) An order referred to in subsection (1) shall come into force on the twentieth sitting day of Parliament after it has been laid before Parliament pursuant to that subsection unless, before that time,

(a) a motion for the consideration of the House of Commons to the effect that the order be confirmed, signed by a Minister of the Crown, is filed with the Speaker of the House of Commons; or

(b) if no motion has been filed under paragraph (a), a motion for the consideration of the House of Commons to the effect that the order be revoked signed by not less than thirty members of the House of Commons is filed with the Speaker of the House of Commons.

(3) Where a motion for the consideration of the House of Commons is filed as provided in subsection (2), the House of Commons shall, not later than the sixth sitting day of Parliament following the filing of the motion, take up and consider the motion.

(4) A motion taken up and considered in accordance with subsection (3) shall be debated without interruption for not more than three hours and, on the conclusion of such debate or at the expiration of the third such hour, the Speaker of the House of Commons shall forthwith, without further debate or amendment, put every question necessary for the disposition of the motion.

8. If a motion described in paragraph 7(2)(a) is taken up and considered by the House of Commons in accordance with subsection 7(3) but is not adopted