

National Trade Mark and True Labelling Act

public discussion or investigation into the gasoline retailing industry in this country.

Mr. Mahoney: Amen!

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise simply to join in the unanimous support for this bill. I thought all those who were going to speak had done so, but I see that there are two others. I hope they can be persuaded to make their speeches on some other bill and to let this one go through.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): There are some members, Mr. Speaker, who think there should be more in the bill; nobody has said that there should be less in it. Indeed, there could not be much less. It has one point, and we all agree with it. There is no rule in the book that says that whatever is before the House on a Friday afternoon has to be talked out. I am afraid that the Liberal members are so used to doing that with our bills that they have forgotten that this bill is sponsored by a Liberal.

An hon. Member: We can discern.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I introduce to the Liberal members of the House the acting chief government whip, the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis). It is his bill that we want to vote on. If we pass it now, we can adjourn 20 minutes early. So why do we not pass the bill? It will not be given third reading and sent to the Senate; we shall merely send it to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, and I assure the hon. member for York Centre (Mr. Walker) that the chairman of that committee will see to it that the bill is dealt with properly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Jack Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, I join the hon. member for York Centre (Mr. Walker) in saying that the debate on this bill has been too wide-ranging. I am pleased to inform the House that neither my car nor the car of my colleague the hon. member for Lambton-Kent (Mr. McCutcheon) has ever stalled as a result of bad gas. He and I both come from the chemical valley and we have nothing to fear from this bill.

Earlier, the hon. member for Battleford-Kindersley (Mr. Thomson) talked about tourist promotion. I invite him and other hon. members to come to Sarnia and tour our refineries which are the finest in the world. If any hon. member with a 1969 car is having trouble, it is clear that he spent too much money on the car and too little on gas. Such difficulties could never be attributed to gas that comes from the chemical valley.

[Mr. Walker.]

I do not think we need worry about octane ratings. Nevertheless, I support the principle of the bill. The high quality of the gasoline that is produced by our refineries, and the high quality of the workmanship that has gone into the building of those refineries, leads me to say that we have nothing to fear and that we would welcome this measure. It would have the effect of taking away business from those two-bit businesses which try to sell what people call gasoline of a low octane rating. When we buy that sort of gas we have reason to complain. I therefore say on my own behalf and, no doubt, on behalf of the hon. member for Lambton-Kent that we who come from the chemical valley welcome this measure. I think we are all united in our views in Sarnia and the Lambton area generally. We have nothing to fear from octane ratings being shown at gasoline stations or on gas pumps.

Mr. Ray Perrault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to prolong this debate. I was surprised to hear the House Leader of the New Democratic Party suggest that government supporters do not have a keen interest in this subject.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It is too keen; that's the trouble.

Mr. Perrault: I for one think that every right should be extended to government supporters to speak on this subject. In many ways this has been a pretty high-octane debate. I think we have pumped the subject dry and I think it is time to get the lead out and refer the bill to the appropriate committee.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might ask a question. Is the government planning to establish a ministry of gas, and is consideration being given to appointing the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault) as its head?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I should like to assure the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) that we on this side of the House are quite aware of the vast powers of the chief government whip, and therefore we would not exercise any rights we might have to talk out this bill.

I think the proposal put forward by the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis) is very worthwhile. It would be in the best interests of the public if we could see such octane ratings. I am not as familiar with the process involved as the hon. member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. Cullen). I do not know whether it is possible to list the octane rating of gasoline at a gas pump. If it were possible to do so, I think it ought to be done because it would increase the efficiency and effectiveness of retailing gasoline to the general public.

The hon. member for York Centre (Mr. Walker) has suggested that because the parameters of the bill are