

ENERGY

NEWFOUNDLAND—TRANSMISSION OF HYDROELECTRIC POWER THROUGH QUEBEC—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Madam Speaker, on April 16, the Premier of Newfoundland wrote to the Prime Minister of Canada indicating that talks between Newfoundland and Quebec over the transmission of Newfoundland hydro power had broken down and were not productive.

Yesterday, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources seemed to be taking the side of Quebec in this dispute. I would make the point, in support of my motion, that Newfoundland has the same right to transmit its power through Quebec as Alberta has to transmit natural gas through Ontario to Quebec. Therefore, I would move, seconded by the hon. member for Perth (Mr. Jarvis):

That this House direct the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, on behalf of the government, to comply with a written request to the Prime Minister of Canada from the Premier of Newfoundland to exercise its authority under the BNA Act to provide for transmission of Newfoundland hydroelectric power through the province of Quebec.

Madam Speaker: Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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DISARMAMENT

OBJECTION TO CONFERENCE ON ARMAMENTS BEING HELD IN OTTAWA—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Madam Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, to put a motion to this House on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week the American Defense Preparedness Association will be hosting an international conference on "Trends in Large Calibre Gun Systems" right across the street from this House, at the Government Conference Centre.

In view of the fact that security clearances for the conference will be processed through the Department of Supply and Services, that senior Canadian officials will be participants in the conference, and that Canadian companies—notably, Space Research of South Africa—will be plying their trade at this conference, and in view of the government's announced intention to name an ambassador at large for disarmament, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie):

That this House direct the Government of Canada to have this conference either cancelled or moved from the Government Conference Centre or, failing that, at the very least prohibit Canadian officials from participating in conferences of such an inappropriate nature.

Madam Speaker: Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ENERGY

PRICING OF ENERGY AND SECURITY OF SUPPLY—GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS—POSSIBILITY OF TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who knows that the present energy agreement runs out in less than two weeks. The minister has had six months since he voted against our energy proposals. He indicated the other day that he has now brought himself to proposing to Alberta an interim agreement by telephone.

● (1415)

In his meeting tomorrow with the province of Alberta, can the minister tell the House whether he intends to propose a detailed and comprehensive energy program, on behalf of Canada, which will deal with both price and security of supply and will extend at least three or four years into the future?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I have already had meetings with my Alberta colleague. During our last one, I had the opportunity to make him some specific offers concerning the price of oil and gas in Canada. Up until now, my offers have been rejected. I contacted my colleague again to offer him an interim arrangement which would allow us to pursue negotiations and, in particular, to make sure that constitutional talks could go on unhindered by discussions on oil pricing.

Again tomorrow, I will be meeting with my colleague to explore with him other alternatives to those he has rejected to date. As I indicated, these alternatives will comprise many factors which will cover the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition.

[English]

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, the minister has indicated that in his earlier meeting he discussed only questions of price, and that tomorrow he intends only to explore solutions to the problem of renewing an agreement which expires in less than two weeks.

Does the federal government have a firm and detailed proposal to submit to the producing provinces? If not, what has the federal government been doing these last six months?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!