

few moments ago that it will be difficult to change my reservations to Monday.

For myself, I try always to plan ahead, and I know many of my colleagues do likewise. I try to make reservations weeks in advance. It is necessary to do that, if you live at any great distance from Ottawa. If the Senate is not informed sufficiently in advance of a change in routine, say from Tuesday evening to Monday evening, the problem arises of trying to find accommodation on the airlines. As I say, that will become extremely difficult the closer we approach Christmas. I am sure the deputy leader appreciates this problem and will do everything he can in future to advise us well in advance of any changes from the normal schedule.

Senator Frith: Honourable senators, I am grateful to Senator Rowe for his observation. I appreciate that there can be considerable difficulty in making changes in travelling schedules, particularly with respect to trips between Ottawa and either the east coast or west coast or other distant points. However, I am sure Senator Rowe also appreciates that I always try to do exactly what he has requested. Indeed, in this particular case, when I learned yesterday that we would be receiving the Bank Act, I immediately announced that it would be my intention to move the adjournment to Monday. Making that announcement yesterday was the earliest I could do so, and I will continue to have regard for these problems of time scheduling for trips both east and west from Ottawa.

Just to be absolutely sure that there is no doubt about the matter, I gave no notice with reference to Tuesday because, as honourable senators will realize, according to our rules, if we sit on Monday evening at 8 o'clock, the next sitting of the Senate will be on Tuesday at 2 o'clock.

Motion agreed to.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS IN GALLERY

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF CANADIAN POLISH CONGRESS

Hon. Stanley Haidasz: Honourable senators, I should like to draw your attention to the presence in the gallery of the newly elected President of the Head Executive Board of the Canadian Polish Congress, Mr. Jan Kaszuba, and his Vice-President, Mr. Marek S. Malicki, and Professor Jan Fedorowicz, all of whom will be appearing this afternoon before the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ENERGY

COLD LAKE, ALBERTA—HEAVY OIL PROJECT—FEDERAL LOAN TO IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED

Hon. R. James Balfour: Honourable senators, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of State for Economic

[Senator Rowe.]

Development in relation to the announced loan by the federal government of \$40 million to Imperial Oil with respect to the Cold Lake heavy oil project. Will the minister explain to the Senate how the proposed loan to Imperial Oil ties in with the announced government objective of Canadianization of the Canadian petroleum industry?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): I am not sure that there is a direct tie there. However, there is a direct tie to be made with the government's stated policy of encouraging as-rapid-as-possible development of the enormous deposits of heavy oil, of which the Cold Lake project is one.

The reason for the loan, as expressed by the Minister of Energy, is that, in the absence of an agreement, the loan would give the company the confidence that there was a time within the reasonably near future when it could proceed with that program. Moreover, the government would not like that group of highly technical people involved in the project to be disbanded, because there is already a shortage of that class of skills. Now that they have been assembled by the company, we want to do what we can to make sure that they are in place and that that project can go ahead, because we have consistently given high priority to meeting at least part of Canada's deficit in crude oil from those resources.

● (1425)

OIL—ADVANTAGE OF DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

Hon. R. James Balfour: Would the honourable minister explain why it is more in the interest of Canada for our country to be negotiating for offshore purchases of up to 100,000 barrels a day of additional Saudi Arabian oil at the world price than purchasing the same quantity of oil from western Canadian sources at less than the world price?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): There is no question, honourable senators, that that is more advantageous, or that one source of supply is more advantageous than the other. We obviously believe that Canadian crude oil from Canadian production is the most advantageous route to follow, and we are pursuing that with vigour. However, we also realize that we are not at the stage where we can do that, and probably will not be at that stage until the end of this decade.

We are required to import some crude oil and we have an obligation to consider all offers made, in terms of the volume required, and the price and security of that supply coming to Canada during the years that we need it.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

THE BUDGET—IMPACT ON LOW INCOME FAMILIES

Hon. R. James Balfour: Honourable senators, I have a question to direct to the Deputy Leader of the Government. It relates to a response he made on November 18, 1980, reported at page 1240 of Senate *Hansard*, during which he made the following statement: