

Law of the Sea

Before we can really tackle the problem of government deficits, we must have a much more stable economy. We must have a planned economy where one is able to predict economic trends and put in proper government expenditures with the knowledge of how the whole economy will operate in the years ahead. As long as we have economic anarchy we will never be able to properly control all the expenditures.

I hope as well when the government sets up the committee that we will also look into the possible cost overruns on the mortgage insurance tax credit scheme. I think this is Pandora's box. Again, it is one of those projects that the present government has every right to condemn the former government for doing. I am afraid the present government is making the same mistake in carrying on in the same tradition. There are no decent controls on the scheme and there is no proper way of forecasting how much it will cost. I think we will end up with many of the problems that we have experienced in the past.

So we will support the motion, Mr. Speaker. We hope something decent and good will come out of it, although I am afraid, given the reality as a whole, I do not believe this committee will have the power to properly control government spending.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

● (1700)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCain): Order. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Mississauga North (Mr. Jupp)—National Defence—Contract for Cruise missiles; the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert)—Treasury Board—Sale of Crown corporation to private enterprise; the hon. member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson)—Energy—Government control over oil prices.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely notices of motions.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCain): Is it the pleasure of the House to give unanimous consent to stand motion No. 9?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Mr. de Jong.]

LAW OF THE SEA

PROPOSED COMMON HERITAGE FUND TO ASSIST DEVELOPING NATIONS

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should continue to work to achieve agreement on a comprehensive and broadly supported law of the sea treaty through the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and that such a treaty should provide for an international seabed or ocean authority to regulate the exploitation of deep ocean minerals in an equitable manner, with appropriate roles for private, national and international entities and that a significant portion of ocean mineral revenues, both offshore and in the deep ocean, should be regarded as "the common heritage of mankind" and used in a "Common Heritage Fund" to assist developing nations, to fight pollution, and to assist the work of the United Nations, especially in the area of peacekeeping, along the lines of the 1978 proposal of the government of Nepal.

He said: Mr. Speaker, last week some hon. members of this House were treated to an inspiring and most thoughtful address by Dr. J. F. Leddy, president of the World Federalists of Canada, when he spoke to the annual meeting of the Canadian World Federalist Parliamentary Association. I would very quickly report to the House that the Canadian World Federalist Parliamentary Association now has 130 paid up members, members of Parliament and senators. At our meeting last week we elected a new president, the hon. member for Waterloo (Mr. McLean). We look forward to the high quality of leadership which we know this new member of Parliament will provide for our association.

I should also say a word in the way of tribute to the past president, the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. MacGuigan), who served our association extremely well for a long period of time.

In introducing my motion today, I would like to begin by quoting very briefly from Dr. Leddy's speech which I believe sets the tone for the motion I would seek support for from hon. members. Dr. Leddy said:

What will future historians think of our times? What will be their view of our stewardship of civilization . . . Ask young people in North America today what label will probably be applied to the twentieth century, and they will usually emphasize the marvels of science and technology, of air travel and space exploration, of communication through radio and television. Some will speak of a greater degree of social and political democracy.

If one interrupts this glowing litany to point out that many millions in the world have enjoyed little if any of these benefits of our century, these students are genuinely surprised and uneasy to be reminded, as well, that there have been two world wars, destroying many millions of lives, that two atom bombs were dropped, wiping out 250,000 lives in a flash, that six million Jews were killed in cold calculation in the Holocaust, and that even after the war there has been, year after year, the never-ending plight of hordes of refugees, fleeing in misery as the result of some new commotion in Europe or Asia or Africa or South America. One should add to this grim list the collapse of democratic regimes in many parts of the world, and the recurring misery of famines, remedied too little and too late.

My motion, which has the support of the Canadian World Federalist Parliamentary Association, proposes that a significant portion of ocean mineral revenues, both offshore and deep ocean, be regarded as the common heritage of mankind and used in a common heritage fund. To do what? As the motion says, it is to assist developing nations, to fight pollution, particularly ocean pollution, to transfer marine technology to developing countries and, finally, to assist the work of the