

think that the government is making decisions on legislation and policy based entirely on the collective opinions of civil servants rather than facts. If the government has access to facts in its decision-making process and then puts forward to parliament a bill based on its decision, then the government has an obligation, I maintain, to make all the facts associated with that bill—not just the facts which support the government's case—accessible to members of parliament, because it is parliament which is called upon to make decisions.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Give us just a couple of minutes.

Mr. Andre: Don't you have a plane to catch, Joe?

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): No, but I want to speak. You are talking it out, and you haven't said anything yet.

Mr. Andre: You have been talking so much that you cannot hear. You cannot listen and talk at the same time, Joe.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Give us a couple of minutes.

Mr. Andre: Keep it up, we are just about finished.

As part of a freedom of information package which would govern the handling of information, I think it is absolutely essential, if we are going to maintain any illusion at all of parliamentary democracy, with parliament enacting laws, that parliament have complete and total access to all information. It is unsatisfactory for a minister of energy, mines and resources to tell a committee, as was the case with regard to a committee I was on, that the committee cannot see a study made by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources on petroleum companies.

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I simply wish to inform the hon. gentleman that we are

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dealing with a motion which is specified in the order paper, and I should have preferred that he close the debate on the same non-partisan note in which the debate has been conducted.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I must say that I was listening very carefully to the remarks of the hon. member, and they were quite related to the motion.

Mr. Andre: Just very quickly in conclusion, all background information related to bills must be made available to members of parliament. All consultant studies must be made available and public. All facts in working papers—we are not looking for opinions—must be made available, and committees of this House must have the right to question civil servants on any aspect of public policy which they feel would be relevant and important to members of parliament.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It being 9.45 p.m. it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith every question to dispose of the motion now before the House. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Ten o'clock.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent that we call it ten o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being ten o'clock, this House stands adjourned until eleven o'clock tomorrow morning.

At 9.47 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.