

yesterday with respect to applications for the export of gas on a possible swap arrangement was hypothetical.

● (1200)

I should like to point out that yesterday's *Globe and Mail* definitely indicated that the TransCanada Pipelines has applied to the National Energy Board for a permit to export gas and to enter into swapping arrangements. Surely, this is not a hypothetical question. Can the parliamentary secretary tell the House if such applications have been made by TransCanada Pipelines and Pan-Alberta Gas? Has the government laid down any policy with respect to whether increased gas exports will be permitted and whether they will be on a swap basis? If they are on a swap basis, will it be on the quantity of gas or on the price of gas?

Mr. Maurice Dupras (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the minister has already dealt with that question in answer to the question of the hon. member for Calgary North by saying that it was a hypothetical question.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, surely that is a ridiculous answer. If the newspaper report is correct, the application is now before the National Energy Board. Surely the government, and particularly the minister and the parliamentary secretary, keep in touch with what is happening at the National Energy Board. Are such applications before the board? If so, has the government discussed with the chairman of the National Energy Board whether the government is in favour of increasing our exports of gas, and if so, on what basis?

Mr. Dupras: Mr. Speaker, it could very well be that the application is before the National Energy Board, but it does not mean it is before the minister.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows perfectly well I am not suggesting that the application is before the minister. I am assuming that in any well run government—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):—a minister would keep in touch with the agencies for which he is responsible, in the same able way that he kept in touch with AECL and what it was doing.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): We should not get up some morning and find out that the National Energy Board has embarked upon a policy which will sell our scarce gas at cheap prices in return for buying back Alaskan gas at high prices. Surely we can be told whether such applications are before the board and what attitude the government is taking with respect to advising the board as to government policies in regard to the export of gas.

Report of Committee

Mr. Dupras: Mr. Speaker, I take the representation of the hon. member as notice.

Mrs. Holt: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. During the question period you prevented me from asking a question—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Paproski: Sit down.

An hon. Member: At least you can be polite.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: A female Mortimer Snerd.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Interference at any time, with any hon. member during the question period, is always a subject to which I am prepared to listen. I am always prepared to listen to any hon. member in circumstances in which a question has been put that might be subject to some different interpretation. I stopped the hon. member today on her preamble, and I will not hear her on either privilege or order with respect to that particular preamble.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, you called my riding today in order that I might ask a question. After the intervention, you recognized the New Democratic Party. I am wondering whether it was an oversight, or what the reason was.

Mr. Speaker: I do not recall the incident the hon. member is describing. Is he indicating that I called him and something else intervened?

An hon. Member: Yes, it was his leader.

Mr. Speaker: It was not an intentional oversight. I was attempting to balance the representation among the parties. I had the hon. member for Provencher on my list, and I would have recognized him. At the end of the question period, his House leader and the Leader of the Opposition sought the floor, which caused me to divert from the plan I had in mind at that time. They used the remainder of the question period on a very important subject, which unfortunately prevented me from completing the list of speakers in the official opposition, the next one of whom was the hon. member for Provencher.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

LABOUR, MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION

Fourth report of Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration—Miss Nicholson.

[*Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]