

Speaker's Ruling

except in the United States, Canadian oil and gas are high cost in terms of finding, development and transportation.

The cost of the development of a new field in Alberta or even in the Arctic is very high. Our wells in Alberta produce about 100 to 200 barrels of the best per day, while in Venezuela one can produce about 10,000 barrels a day, and therein lies the difference because the cost of drilling a well, whether it is in Venezuela, in the Middle East or Alberta, is approximately the same. So the cost to produce crude petroleum in Alberta is greater than it is in the Middle East or in Venezuela.

May I call it five o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

[English]

AIR TRANSPORT**STRIKE BY FIREFIGHTERS AT BRITISH COLUMBIA AIRPORTS—
RULING MR. SPEAKER**

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Earlier today the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser) proposed to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 to discuss the work stoppage at Vancouver airport. I indicated at the time that I had serious reservations about the advisability of putting the motion. I might say that in normal circumstances I would have ruled that the proposed motion did not meet the stringent requirements of Standing Order 26. However, it was felt that the Chair should take into account that a motion to adjourn the House for an Easter recess would, if carried, effectively prevent any discussion of the important and urgent matter between now and April 22. After consultation with the House leaders I have come to the conclusion that, on balance, it might be wise to permit the motion to be put this evening at nine o'clock.

Discussions with several House leaders suggest that there would be agreement that proceedings under Standing Order 40 be suspended, that the motion under Standing Order 26 be deemed to be carried not later than eleven o'clock this evening, and that speeches be limited to ten minutes except for the mover and the spokesman replying on behalf of the government who would be allowed fifteen minutes each.

Is this proposal unanimously agreed to?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members business, as listed in the order paper, namely public bills, private bills and notices of motions.

[Mr. Woolliams.]

● (1700)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

CANADA PENSION PLAN**AMENDMENT TO PERMIT HOUSEWIVES TO MAKE
CONTRIBUTIONS AND COLLECT BENEFITS**

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo-Cambridge) moved that Bill C-108, to amend the Canada Pension Plan (housewives' contributions and benefits), be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, since the inception of the Canada Pension Plan I have been moving private members' bills along this line in order to get fairer treatment for men and women who alternate between industry and home, or sometimes between being ill and being able to work. The principle is equally important in both cases.

Women may be invalidated and, as a result, may not work for a number of years, or they may have to assume certain responsibilities at home and later wish to return to the labour force. Because there is no provision for housewives' contributions, even on a self-employed basis, women who find themselves in that position suffer a penalty to the extent that they do not get a full pension. That is a very wrong principle. A similar problem arises when someone has a prolonged illness and has to be out of the labour force for a considerable period of time, but re-enters it at a future date. There is provision for dropping off the years in which he has not been earning, and very often that person cannot recoup the years he has lost by making voluntary contributions during the period of his illness. Thus he suffers a disadvantage when he becomes eligible for pension.

I know that the government is looking at amendments to the Canada Pension Plan. On reading the statement given to the standing committee by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) one assumes that the government is sympathetic to amendments. As a matter of fact, some amendments are before the House now that would provide greater equity and fairness, as the scheme now stands, with respect to contributions made by those in the labour force and by those who are self-employed. But these amendments do not make provision for housewives' contributions or house persons' contributions. Two suggestions have been made. One is to correct an obvious defect in the Canada Pension Plan so that the benefits a husband receives will be split between himself and his wife. Obviously, there are some difficulties here. If the rates remain at their present level you do not really accomplish very much because you simply split them in two.

The second thing being considered is really the substance of Bill C-108 which is before the House at the moment, namely, that the housewife or house person be able to contribute on the same basis as a self-employed person. There are many arguments and difficulties involved in this concept, but it seems to me there are no more greater difficulties involved than there are with self-employed people paying into the fund. If the housewife could make a contribution to the plan, or