

NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

SUGGESTED TALK BY AUTHORS OF POLICY—MOTION UNDER
S.O. 43

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Madam Speaker, I rise to move a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Noting that since the announcement of the so-called "National" Energy Program on October 28, 114 drilling operations and 49 servicing operations have left for the United States; regretting that for each rig that leaves Canada an estimated minimum of \$1 million in wages and other economic spin-offs alone is lost to our country on a yearly basis, not to mention the lost opportunities of finding domestic oil and gas with that rig; and acknowledging that the stupidity of the program is perhaps rivalled only in recent times by that of the post war Roumanian agriculture minister, whose politics it seems unnecessary to specify, who ordered approximately two million Roumanian horses killed without bothering to note that there were no tractors available to replace them, thereby causing a severe famine, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Bruce-Grey (Mr. Gurbin):

That the authors of the national energy policy, the energy minister, the finance minister, and the Prime Minister, jointly give this House a talk entitled "the power to tax is the power to destroy".

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

● (1115)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ECONOMY

EXCHANGE CONTROLS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It arises from an exchange in this House yesterday between our two socialist leaders. Yesterday in replying to the hon. member for Oshawa concerning the possibility of somehow sheltering the mortgage interest rate impact on Canadians, the Prime Minister stated that:

—the alternative, Madam Speaker, is to go into exchange controls, and I have not heard even the NDP in its wildest moments advocate those.

I wish to bring to the Prime Minister's attention that there was such a wild moment on the part of the NDP. It came as a result of an answer given on May 12 by the Prime Minister to the Leader of the NDP. In an answer to a request for lower interest rates, the Prime Minister stated:

—this would mean exchange controls, and until he is prepared to advocate that I would say that we are not prepared to listen to him.

Oral Questions

On May 14 the Leader of the NDP came back and stated:

I want to say to the Minister of Finance that if there is a run on the dollar or if there is a concern about a flow of money—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Stevens:

—south of the border in the short run—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Stevens:

—then certain action could be taken.

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Stevens:

We do not withdraw from the suggestion of a form of exchange controls.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. That is the third quotation in the course of asking a question. It is a bit much. I urge the hon. member to put his question.

Mr. Stevens: Now that we have the scenario properly set for the Prime Minister, will he bring us up to date on what is the attitude of the government with regard to the possible reimposition of exchange controls, something we have not had since 1950?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I want to point out to the hon. member that I am not leader of a socialist party but of the Liberal party.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nielsen: A rose by any other name—

Mr. Trudeau: We on this side are proud of our Liberal label, Madam Speaker. We do not try to hide it under the Conservative Progressive ticket that they use over there. If the hon. member wants any witnesses, I can call on the Leader of the New Democratic Party. Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, the questioner was so long-winded that you had to cut him off at the point where he was trying to establish what he was trying to establish. I did not hear the quotation of the Leader of the New Democratic Party. Therefore I fail to see his whole point, which was to say that the Leader of the New Democratic Party accepted exchange controls. Then you stood up, Madam Speaker, and we did not hear him any longer.

Mr. Wilson: You heard his question.

Mr. Trudeau: Look, you silly guys—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: Order. I think we will have to start that one over again. I do not mean that the hon. member should again cite his quotations, but that he should put a simple and brief question to whomever he wishes to direct it.

Mr. Stevens: Madam Speaker, I am sure the Prime Minister can well understand my reference to his being a socialist