

Water Resources

took place in Brussels on oil pollution of the high seas. Surely, it was reasonable for us to expect the government would make its position known before this debate took place because this subject is directly related to this debate.

Only yesterday I asked the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson), in the absence of the statement he promised to the House on Canada's position taken at this conference on the pollution of the high seas, whether he would make Canada's position papers available to members of Parliament so that we could relate them to the debate taking place now. This was a reasonable request. Yet, we were denied this and do not know what the Canadian position is. I am glad the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) is in his seat because the United Nations is about to sponsor a conference on pollution in 1972. It might be worth while if he were to indicate what Canada's position will be at this conference.

We are faced with very serious problems of pollution but nothing will be solved by this type of legislation. In my opinion it is bad legislation and does not do what it is supposed to do. I regret that the Chair did not accept the amendment we proposed today because we feel the only way to effectively deal with this matter is for the government to withdraw the bill now before us and redraft it in a meaningful way so that it will take into account the jurisdictional problem to which the amendment referred. A redrafted bill could take into account the power the government now has under the Fisheries Act, and the power the government has under the Navigable Waters Protection Act. Perhaps the government could convene a conference on pollution in this country so that everyone would know of the urgency and gravity of the problem. Then, having come to a full realization of the urgency of the problem, perhaps the provinces would be prepared to give up some of the constitutional responsibilities they enjoy in the area of pollution. But instead, we have a bill which is inadequate. All it does is set up the machinery for the government to enter into negotiations with the provinces which will have the final say in this matter.

Mr. Aiken: Machinery for more machinery.

Mr. McGrath: Yes, machinery for more machinery. It is really setting up more jurisdictional bureaucracy. It is not cutting
[Mr. McGrath.]

through the haze. It is creating more haze. In fact the crisis is so severe that it calls for a precise definition.

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

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: 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 Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave)—Criminal Code—proclamation of remainder of amendments respecting breathalyzer; the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Harding)—Transport—Coal—application by Great Northern and Kootenay Elk Railways; the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis)—Consumer Affairs—charges respecting operations of council.

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

PRIVATE BILLS

PITTS INSURANCE COMPANY

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Sudbury) moved that Bill S-10, to incorporate Pitts Insurance Company, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I think this bill and the one next following, S-11, are probably bills in respect of which members of the House will not find much to debate. However, I shall go through them briefly. Both are connected with and arise out of the same matter. Both have already been dealt with by the Senate having first been introduced there on Thursday, November 20, having been referred to the Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce, where both were dealt with on Wednesday, November 26, and then having been returned to the Senate where they were given second and third reading on Wednesday, November 26 and Thursday, November 27.

The subject matter of Bill S-10 is the incorporation of Pitts Insurance Company and the subject matter of the one following it, S-11, is the incorporation of Pitts Life Insurance