

Madam Speaker: The hon. member's point is well taken. I think I can say honestly that there is no over-reaction on my part. I agree with him that the question period belongs to the opposition, and I thought more so in what might be the last week of this session.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

CORPORATIONS AND LABOUR UNIONS RETURNS ACT

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1978

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): Madam Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 41(2), I wish to table in both official languages copy of the annual report on the Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act for 1978.

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[English]

TREASURY BOARD

TABLING OF LIST OF COST-CONTROL PROJECTS

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 41(2), I wish to table in both official languages copies of the list of cost-control projects reported to Treasury Board as of September 15, 1979.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

[English]

NORTHERN PIPELINES

IMPENDING GOVERNMENT DECISION RESPECTING ALASKA GAS PIPELINE PRE-BUILD SECTION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, for the serious reasons I made quite clear to Your Honour in a letter which I sent to your office earlier today on the important subject of the proposed pipeline through Canada from Alaska, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell), the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the decision to be reached on Thursday by the government concerning the propriety of pre-building a section of the northern pipeline without assurances that the entire pipeline will be built.

Order Paper Questions

Madam Speaker: The hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) has given the Chair the usual notice of his intention to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26. I must remind him the matter which he seeks to have debated under the Standing Order is not a new one.

The decision to pre-build or not to pre-build a section of the pipeline will be reached by a process set out in an act of Parliament, the Northern Pipeline Act. As the hon. member said in his notice, the decision about to be reached by the government "is of profound importance", but that is not a question on which the Chair has to make a determination. In effect, the hon. member appears to be questioning the adequacy of the legislation which does not provide for debate and decision by the House.

Mr. Broadbent: Not at all.

Madam Speaker: The precedents are most clear. On May 20, 1970, on March 21, 1975, on April 30, 1975 and on many other occasions, the Chair ruled that it would be a questionable practice to debate proposed or existing legislation under Standing Order 26. In fact, on April 30, 1975, my predecessor ruled as follows:

—that the emergency provisions pursuant to Standing Order 26 ought to be distinguished, or their use ought to be distinguished from those items which, in a regular legislative program of the House of Commons and regular legislative consideration, can come before the House by way of amendments to existing statutes, or in any case will come before it in other ways.

The decision referred to by the hon. member is an administrative decision that may be made by the government in accordance with the provisions of a statute.

● (1550)

I should also remind hon. members that this is not a new matter. It is part of a continuing process that has been raised on several occasions in this chamber and which has also been debated in the Standing Committee on Northern Pipelines.

Hon. members do not need me to set down other ways in which this may come before the House. May I refer them to my ruling of July 9, 1980, where I ruled on a somewhat similar matter raised by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell).

It is regretted, therefore, that I have to inform the hon. member that I cannot accept his motion at this time.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following