

Oil and Gas Act

with hon. gentlemen opposite regarding the reference to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works of this particular bill and there has been general agreement that the order should be changed to refer the subject matter of this bill to that particular committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege as regards the motion moved by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I wish to say that we Créditistes do not agree in principle with his proposal for a gentleman's agreement to transfer the subject matter of Bill S-5 from one committee to another.

[English]

We don't agree.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me if there is no unanimous consent, the issue is closed. It ceases to be an issue.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: I have raised the question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I do not understand how there could be a question of privilege arising out of that, but I am prepared to listen to the hon. member.

[Translation]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

In fact, we agree that this bill be referred to the committee. On the other hand, however, the Parliamentary Secretary did not consult us to conclude his gentlemen's agreement. He contacted the representatives of the Conservative Party and the New Democratic Party, but walked by me twice without stopping or even acknowledging my presence. He certainly knows that I am the house leader of the Ralliement Créditiste.

There are 14 of us members of the Ralliement Créditiste in the House. We have been officially recognized, not only by Parliament but also by the Canadian people, as a separate political group and we intend to assert our rights. When the Parliamentary Secretary first introduced this motion, the Chair did say that it was an agreement between all parties.

Therefore, I must protest—

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am not sure whether the hon. member has a question of privilege. He may have a legitimate ground for complaint. Perhaps we should leave it at that.

It being one o'clock I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): You can speak all you like, now.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Prior to one o'clock the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) moved an amendment to Bill S-5. I suggested at that time that I might consult with Mr. Speaker and with members of the table. I am now prepared to give a ruling. However, before I do so I might like to hear the advice and suggestions of hon. members, if any hon. members wish to be heard.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, may I first refer to the ruling on a reasoned amendment made by Mr. Speaker on January 15, 1970, to be found at pages 2427-8 of *Hansard*, where a reasoned amendment was rejected. May I point out that this amendment is different in context and approaches more closely the type of amendment that has been accepted in the past. I should like to refer to May's seventeenth edition, page 527, where the author deals with reasoned amendments. It is stated that a reasoned amendment may fall into one of several categories, the second of which is:

It may express opinions as to any circumstances connected with the introduction or prosecution of the bill, or otherwise opposed to its progress.

Then, at page 528 May deals with the effect of the acceptance of a reasoned amendment and states:

The technical effect of such an amendment is to supersede the question for now reading the bill a second time; and the bill is left in the same position as if the question for now reading the bill a second time had been simply negatived or superseded by the previous question. The House refuses on that particular day to read the bill a second time, and gives its reasons for such refusal; but the bill is not otherwise disposed of.

It is my submission that this amendment falls particularly and directly within this rule. The amendment states that certain additional