

ing some of these questions be placed alongside the answers. Some of these questions are far fetched, very very deep, and sometimes very expensive.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

STANDING ORDERS

MOTION TO AMEND STANDING ORDER 65(1)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council) moved:

That Standing Order 65(1) be amended by adding immediately after subsection (s), the following:

"(t) Northern pipelines, to consist of not more than 15 members, to which shall stand permanently referred all reports, orders, agreements, regulations, directions and approvals mentioned in sections 12, 13, 14, 15 and 22 of the Northern Pipeline Act; provided that the said committee shall report thereon at least three times in every session."

Provided that this subsection shall be deleted from the Standing Orders on the day on which the Northern Pipeline Agency ceases to exist.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION ACT

MEASURE TO AUTHORIZE IMPOSITION OF LEVY ON DOMESTIC PETROLEUM AND IMPORTS

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) moved that Bill C-19, to amend the Petroleum Administration Act and the Energy Supplies Emergency Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Gillespie moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am most pleased to have the opportunity this afternoon, or what remains of it, of introducing for third reading today Bill C-19, which amends the Petroleum Administration Act. This bill will help to foster the development of Canadian resources and help to minimize our dependence on foreign oil.

Energy

I think it is worthy of note that this should be seen as one of a number of very important measures which the government has taken to minimize our dependence on foreign oil imports. For example, the extension of the oil pipeline to Montreal has minimized these oil imports, probably to an extent very close to \$1.5 billion a year in foreign exchange, and at the same time has reduced our vulnerability to a cessation of oil imports from the Middle East.

This bill, which will foster the development of domestic petroleum resources, should be seen very much as a part of a series of measures the government has taken to develop Canadian oil resources and to develop other energy resources which can replace oil imports. As I said previously in the House on second reading, the principle aim of this bill is to fulfil a commitment of the federal government given at the time of the massive salvage operation, and I refer to the operation in which the government of Alberta and the government of Ontario joined with the federal government in protecting, preserving, and continuing that huge project, the Syncrude project in Alberta. At that time a commitment was given that this particular project should receive international prices for the synthetic oil produced by Syncrude of Canada from these Athabasca tar sands.

This bill does a number of other things. It establishes, for example, the levy out of which will be paid the funds to provide for that international price. The proceeds of the levy are to be used to fund the compensation paid to purchasers of the Syncrude material. It is expected that the levy will approximate one half a cent per barrel. This cost will ultimately be borne by the consumer of the petroleum products who, I believe, should be prepared to pay the price to secure such development both in respect of Syncrude and other selected energy projects.

So we have the international price, the levy, and the mechanism of a board, the Petroleum Compensation Board, previously known as the Emergency Supplies Allocation Board, as the three main elements of the bill. There are one or two others to which I will refer.

A moment ago I referred to the fact that this levy could be used for other major oil products in the west. It is important that we realize the potential that might be brought into being for the advantage of Canadians. The tar sands and heavy oil sands of Alberta and, yes, of Saskatchewan as well, represent a potential recoverable reserve of crude bitumens of roughly 330 billion barrels, and 250 billion barrels of ultimately recoverable reserves of synthetic crude oil. That compares with roughly 7 billion barrels of recoverable oil from our conventional resources. Clearly the opportunities for Canadians are enormous, and that is why this bill is so important.

I referred to the possibility of certain other major projects being involved. Let me just list them. In addition to Syncrude production, which in the first phase may be up to 125,000 barrels a day, there could be through an expansion additional production of some 75,000 barrels a day, for a total of 200,000 barrels. There is the possibility of increasing the production of Great Canadian Oil Sands to about 60,000 or 70,000 barrels a