

Petroleum Incentives Program Act

sumers will not pay more for Canadian gas than their American neighbours.

Under the new agreement, producers may export gas by order without limits on the amount, as long as the terms of the contracts do not exceed two years. The National Energy Board is holding hearings on the best way to determine an appropriate surplus. We are pressing the provinces and the industry to do what is necessary to realize the benefits of the natural gas agreement during the transition period. We were particularly pleased to hear that Ontario's Energy Minister, Vince Kerrio, supports the introduction of interim contract carriage during the transition period. This will enable lower prices negotiated by large Ontario industrial consumers with Alberta gas producers to occur now.

The Government of Canada has moved quickly on a number of provisions in the natural gas agreement. The National Energy Board regulations were amended to remove volume limits on short-term export sales. Last November 8, the National Energy Board issued for comment guidelines for short-term sales and changes to contracts and licences.

The National Energy Board began its hearings, which started last November 19 in Calgary. It scheduled a hearing for January 13 into duplication of demand charges, TransCanada's T-Service tariff and other matters. That hearing has been held in abeyance for a couple of weeks. Meanwhile, the National Energy Board has received an application for T-service to be provided by TransCanada on an interim basis. The Minister's Department has drafted terms and conditions for a natural gas pipeline review panel and circulated them for comments from the provinces, as had been decided in the gas agreement. A committee to monitor the implementation of the agreement was established in co-operation with the provinces. The committee met for the first time on January 15 and I can report that it had a very productive meeting.

We are encouraged by the willingness of the producers to offer direct sales to end users. For example, a major Ontario petro-chemical plant, Cyanamid, and Alberta producers have negotiated a direct sale with prices well under current levels. The company is working out interim transportation arrangements with the transmission and distribution companies involved in getting the gas to the plant. I believe the message is clear. Given the right energy policy environment, markets can work for the benefit of both producers and consumers.

In February, 1985, we reached an agreement with the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Atlantic Accord makes the province an equal partner in the development of its offshore oil and gas resources. It ended years of bitter federal-provincial disputes which created uncertainty at a time when the industry was planning to commit billions of dollars to offshore exploration and development. It provides for revenue sharing in offshore oil and gas resources on the same basis as if they were on land. I could go on and speak about that particular agreement as well as the Western Accord and the gas agreement. All of these are very important.

We are now talking about the phasing out of PIP and accomplishing this with the introduction of this Bill. With the

Atlantic Accord and Western Accord, the new frontier energy policy and the natural gas markets and pricing agreements, the Progressive Conservative Government has corrected much of the damage caused by years of ill-conceived Liberal policies. We did it in only 14 months, without sacrificing the interests of consumers, producers, distributors or taxpayers. We did it without the disputes which were so much a part of the daily business of the previous Government. We have united Canadians using energy as the engine of economic growth. I am sure Bill C-85 will receive rapid passage because of its wide acceptance across Canada.

● (1700)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

LOBBY REGISTRATION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East) moved that Bill C-248, an Act to register lobbyists, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization.

He said: Mr. Speaker, first of all let me say in respect to the genesis of this Bill that it is a Bill which has been around for more than a decade in one form or another. The present Bill before the House which I have the honour to sponsor was last put forward by the late Walter Baker who at that time was the Hon. Member for Nepean-Carleton. He felt strongly on the subject. Indeed, we owe a great deal to his research in bringing the subject to the point where it is today. Where we are today, of course, is that the Government has indicated its desire to move in the form of legislation to provide for the registration of lobbyists. In compliance with that commitment, it has wisely, in my opinion, tabled a Green Paper last December 5 entitled "Lobbying and the Registration of Paid Lobbyists—a Discussion Paper". I use the word "wisely" because this is a very complex issue. Indeed, on the surface it would seem to be a very simple, straightforward matter, that is, to provide for a form of registration for lobbyists. However, it is complex because before we can do that we have to define what is a lobbyist.

Let me illustrate. Is a solicitor coming to Ottawa on behalf of a client to seek a patent, to seek a copyright, or some form of legal exercise, a lobbyist? The immediate response is no, and I agree with that. Yet, he is doing it on a fee for service