

Oil and Gas

have full discussions, however, and arrangements are now being made for that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser), followed by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Dupras), followed by the hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo (Mr. Beatty).

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) on a point of order.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, when we agreed some minutes ago to continue the minister's time for questions to be put to him, Your Honour had named about four questioners and we thought that we were agreeing to a limited question period. But if this goes on there will be no more speakers. We think there should be a cut-off fairly soon.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I will recognize four questioners, if I may: the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser), the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Dupras), the hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo (Mr. Beatty), and the fourth as my eye chances.

Mr. Fraser: The minister spoke—

Mr. Fortin: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) on a point of order.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Lotbinière is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know on what basis hon. members are allowed to ask their questions. How is it that not one member of my party was given the floor, yet I have been rising five or six times until now?

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I shall do my best to recognize the hon. member, or one of his associates, as the fourth questioner. The hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser).

Mr. Fraser: The minister spoke a moment ago of trying to find extra supplies of Canadian oil for the British Columbia market. In the event that supplies become short in British Columbia this winter, can the minister give us any assurance that the extra supply he contemplates will not be diverted to eastern Canada?

• (2130)

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, we see an obligation to look after the demands of all Canadians in this particular situation and to make an equitable distribution of excess production available for this purpose.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

Mr. Dupras: Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us what will be the time-frame for the construction of the pipeline to Montreal?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I would think, Mr. Speaker, that we are talking of an 18-month or two-year period, depending upon the decision. The decision is in process but, of course, an application to the National Energy Board for this will be required.

Mr. Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I have a short question for the minister. I wonder whether the minister or his officials have been able to work out, barring any unforeseen difficulties between now and next spring, what the cost per gallon of heating oil and gasoline will be next spring in Ontario?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I can do that. I think that any prediction one might have made up to this point would have been ruled out by the effect of international actions. As the hon. member knows, the government has frozen the price of these commodities in the west and in Ontario markets but is prepared, for the purpose of supply, to allow cost increases for home heating fuel oil in particular cases. The intention would be to carry that through to January.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Rimouski (Mr. Allard) is recognized for a question.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

In the event of a sudden shortage of oil supplies from the Middle-East, can the hon. minister tell the House whether the CNR or CPR have an adequate number of tank cars to supply the eastern provinces, and particularly Quebec, with oil from Alberta? Do they have a sufficient number of tank cars to ensure adequate supplies or at least minimum supplies in the event of a sudden shortage of oil from the Middle East?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, as I have just stated, officials of the railway companies and other carriers will meet tomorrow officials from my department and from the Department of Transport to discuss the possible use of means of transport such as those mentioned by the hon. member and to determine to what extent it is possible to supply the eastern Canadian market from western oil reserves. I cannot at this time tell exactly what the possibilities are but a meeting will be held tomorrow and after tomorrow I will have a better notion of the possibilities of this region.

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall), the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay) and to other hon. members who wished to ask questions. In the immortal words of Mr. Speaker, I hope they will be patient as they may be recognized when the next, perhaps more regular question period comes around. I now call on the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North (Mr. Coates).