

in these matters if the government would only clarify its confused thinking on its resource policies.

● (5:20 p.m.)

One of the greatest deterrents to resource development for the past year or more has been the on-again off-again debate and discussion precipitated by the ill-conceived white paper on tax reform. It was obvious that it had created a pall of uncertainty which made it impossible for Canadian investors to anticipate future prospects with respect to their investments. By the announcement which has been made in the House that negotiations have been going on behind the scenes by the minister, on behalf of the government, in order to assure the parties which might be concerned in making this achievement possible and retaining the Home Oil Company in the hands of Canadians, the government has made it clear that there will be no threat to Canadian investors in the legislative proposals that will be brought down as a result of the extensive discussions on the white paper. I hope that legislation will be before the House at the earliest opportunity.

If these behind the scenes negotiations have been going on, and if this assurance has been given, for example, to the Consumers' Gas Company, it is only fair that other potential investors in Canada's resource industry should have the same assurance, so that the uncertainty or confusion can be dissipated as quickly as possible. We can then resume the development of our Canadian resources in the best interest of Canadians in all parts of the country. This is encouraging news. I am sure that if the government will pursue other developments with the same vigour that it has exhibited when sorting out this difficult matter, there will be many such developments to cheer for in Canada.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, first may I say that it is good to have announcements like this made in the House of Commons. I noted that the minister enjoyed doing that on this occasion. I trust he will keep it up.

We welcome the fact that the government has been able to announce that the control of Home Oil is to be retained in Canada. The only comment I want to make is that the minister was right the first time; public ownership would have been even better. Bearing in mind what was just said by the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale), I suggest to the government that instead of taking wrong advice from the official opposition, it would have been better if they had consulted us.

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say how pleased we were to hear the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) announce that Home Oil Company has been sold to Canadian residents. However, the term "Canadian residents" worries me a little. I would have liked it better if the minister had used the simple term "Canadians", because "Canadian residents" suggests those people may be foreigners who have a few holdings in Canada without being Canadian citizens.

Yukon Minerals Act

I believe that by and large we may be happy because the deal seems to indicate at least that the government is going in the right direction.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): Order, please. The House will now resume consideration of the business interrupted by the announcement by the minister.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

YUKON MINERALS ACT

ADMINISTRATION, ACQUISITION AND RECORDING OF CLAIMS, ETC.

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Chrétien that Bill C-187, respecting minerals in the Yukon Territory, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Nielsen (p. 4009).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): Is the House ready for the question on the amendment?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): All those in favour will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): Call in the members.

The House divided on the amendment (Mr. Nielsen) which was negatived on the following division:

● (5:30 p.m.)

YEAS

Messrs:

Alexander
Alkenbrack
Baldwin
Bell
Bigg
Cadieu
Coates
Code
Crouse
Danforth
Dinsdale
Dionne
Downey
Fairweather
Fortin
Gauthier

Godin
Gundlock
Harkness
Howe
Knowles (Norfolk-
Haldimand)
Laprise
Lundrigan
MacInnis (Cape
Breton-East Richmond)
MacLean
Macquarrie
MacRae
McCleave
McIntosh
McKinley