

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

Mr. Speaker: The question now is on the motion for leave—

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Assiniboia: That the house do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre knows that the motion for leave to introduce a bill is a non-debatable motion. If it is non-debatable, how can he speak even to move this superseding motion?

Mr. Knowles: Standing order 25 says:

A motion to adjourn (except when made for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance), shall always be in order, but no second motion to the same effect—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I ask hon. members to allow the member who has the floor at the moment to be heard not only by those who are sitting around him but also by the Chair.

Mr. Knowles: I was simply reading standing order 25. Perhaps I had better read it again:

A motion to adjourn (except when made for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance), shall always be in order, but no second motion to the same effect shall be made until after some intermediate proceeding has been had.

Obviously the part in parentheses does not apply, and obviously the last few lines do not apply. What does apply is the very direct statement that a motion to adjourn shall always be in order. I submit that "always" means always.

Mr. Speaker: But I submit to the hon. member that standing order 25 must be read in conjunction with standing order 44. I must confess to the hon. member that following certain superseding motions that were moved recently I have gone into this question very carefully, namely the relationship between standing orders 24, 25 and 44, concerning these superseding motions. They are always in order providing something is under consideration, something is under debate. Standing order 44 says:

When a question is under debate no motion is received unless to amend it; to postpone it to a day certain; for the previous question; for reading the orders of the day; for proceeding to another order; to adjourn the debate; or for the adjournment of the house.

At this moment what is before the house is an undebatable motion, a motion that cannot be debated.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, there is nothing in standing order 25 that says that it depends upon standing order 44. In the previous discussion we had, Your Honour was able to cite the words "unless otherwise provided hereunder, with respect to another standing

order. There is nothing to that effect in standing order 25, and there is nothing to that effect in standing order 44. Therefore I contend that the motions referred to in standing orders 24 and 25, namely a motion for reading the orders of the day or a motion to adjourn, are in a different category from the other motions that are referred to along with those two in standing order 44.

Standing order 44 does not say that motions to postpone to a day certain, to read the orders of the day, to adjourn the debate or to adjourn the house can be moved only when a question is under debate. Standing order 44 puts it in the very reverse. It says rather that when a question is under debate that debate cannot be superseded or interfered with, except by these various motions. I submit that it is quite clear that standing order 44 does not say that a question has to be under debate before these other motions can be put. Along with that is the very clear language of standing order 24 and also of standing order 25, which is the one we are under at the moment, which says that a motion to adjourn shall always be in order.

Mr. Speaker: May I ask the hon. member a question? He will have time to look up another reference that he is trying to put his finger on at the moment. In his view, is the motion for leave to introduce a bill a debatable motion?

Mr. Knowles: No.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member, who has been kind enough to answer my first question, be kind enough now to answer my second? If the motion for leave to introduce a bill is not debatable, even if what he says about the motion under standing order 25 is right, how can he utter a single word in order to move that motion?

Mr. Knowles: In the same way—

Mr. Byrne: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Kootenay East will have an opportunity after the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has stated his point.

Mr. Knowles: The question is a good one. The answer is that one gets the floor to move the adjournment that is always in order, even though we are on an undebatable motion, in just the same way as one gets the floor to raise a point of order. It is always in order to do that, even on an undebatable motion, as has been done several times tonight. I submit very strongly that there are certain things, such as raising a point of order, raising a point of privilege and moving to adjourn the