

*Energy, Mines and Resources*

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

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

*And more than five members having risen:*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Pursuant to Section (11) of Standing Order 75, the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

[Translation]

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (for Mr. Lalonde)** moved:

Motion No. 2

That Bill C-102, an act to amend the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources Act, be amended in Clause 1

(a) by striking out lines 37 to 41 of the French version at page 2 and substituting the following therefor:

“(7) Il demeure entendu que ces sociétés ne peuvent constituer d'autres personnes morales dont l'activité principale n'est pas une des activités prévues au paragraphe (1).”

(b) by striking out lines 36 to 40 at page 2 and lines 1 to 3 at page 3 and substituting the following therefor:

“(8) The Minister shall, not later than the fifteenth sitting day of Parliament after a corporation has been incorporated under subsection (1), table or cause to be tabled in each House a statement giving the reasons for the incorporation of the corporation.”

**Mr. Dennis Dawson (Louis-Hébert):** Mr. Speaker, very briefly, I should like to point out first of all that in the notice of motion, the French version was printed on both sides by mistake, but in any case, the first part of this amendment, Mr. Speaker, is solely aimed at making the English and French version consistent by changing the wording, and that is achieved by the words “Il demeure attendu”—

As to the second change, Mr. Speaker, its purpose is to make the text more consistent with the rest of the amendments to be introduced under Motion No. 3, and to ensure that when a Crown corporation is established by the minister, a statement giving the reasons for this decision is tabled in the House of Commons to inform members accordingly. I feel, Mr. Speaker, that this information will satisfy the requirements of the committee which was seeking to obtain as much information as possible, and as regards the possibility of discussing this issue on Motion No. 3, most of the committee's objectives will thus be satisfied.

[English]

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** Mr. Speaker, we certainly have no objection to this motion and concur with it. Putting in the proper French is something we agreed to in terms of the amendment to what is designated 6(8) at the bottom of page 2.

I point out that this amendment, which would have asked that when the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) is creating a new Crown corporation and the bill has passed committee, that he make a statement in the House giving the reasons, thereby allowing the opportunity for a reply from the opposition, plus questioning. It was interesting how

that came about in committee, Mr. Speaker. There happened to be a little bit of background noise and two of the Liberal members accidentally voted with members on our side and, lo and behold, the amendment passed through! I am sure that the officials and the minister have taken them aside and chastised them properly for being so undiligent in their work as to actually agree to something suggested by the opposition.

● (1740)

However, that requirement upon the minister, that he actually make a statement in the House, that he stand up here and say why he should be incorporating a new corporation, apparently was too onerous an obligation to put upon the minister, so we have this amendment that he only make a statement or table a statement. This allows the officials to write the document for him and he can table it in the House. It saves the minister going through the onerous duties and responsibilities of actually reading the statement and then submitting to questions in the House. We all appreciate that that is really an undue obligation to put upon a minister of the Crown, that he go to that effort. Of course, we will agree to any facility that will let the bureaucrats get their work tabled in here quickly without having to interfere with the minister and cause him to have to read what the officials have written for him, and perhaps defend them in reply to questions in the House.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** I declare the motion carried.

Motion (Mr. Lalonde) agreed to.

**Mr. Waddell:** Mr. Speaker, there is a government amendment that deals with amending Clause 1. I would like to seek unanimous consent to introduce one of our amendments.

**Mr. Andre:** It is a one-clause bill.

**Mr. Waddell:** This is to Clause 1, line 18, page 3.

**Mr. Andre:** We have a motion also.

**Mr. Waddell:** I understand that my friends to the right in the Conservative Party have a motion, so perhaps we could deal with that. Perhaps I could just give notice that the better way of dealing with our amendment would be to deal with it after the Conservative motion is dealt with and before the government amendment. Because our amendment refers to the original wording of the bill as it is and not the new wording that the government may bring in.