

Oil and Petroleum

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Chairman, I have one question. We had some discussion about this question when dealing with another bill. Subclause (4) reads:

At fifteen minutes before the expiry of the time provided for government business on the second sitting day following the commencement of consideration—

I would like it clear in my mind that this means the second sitting day must immediately follow the first day, and within a period of four days. It would not be competent for the government to initiate such a debate and then put it off for six months. Is it the intention that the debate must be concluded forthwith on the second sitting day following the commencement of consideration? If there is any doubt, I would like the word "consecutive" or some such word put in there. It is not that I do not trust the minister.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Chairman, it is certainly the intention that we have a two-day debate, or two days back to back. No other item of government business would be called in those two days in between any part of the motion.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Chairman, I think the amendment is a decided improvement. It will mean that if the government decides to use the mandatory powers it has under clause 36 by virtue of the fact it has not been able to reach an agreement with the producing provinces, the government will be required to file a notice of its proclamation. If ten members wanted a debate, there would be a two-day debate. I think that is a good idea. If the government decides to use mandatory powers to set the price of a commodity as important to the economy as oil and, later, gas under clause 52, there ought to be some opportunity given for the House to express an opinion. Subclause (5) reads:

● (1550)

If the House of Commons resolves that the proclamation be revoked, this division, except this section, shall cease to be in force with effect forthwith but without prejudice to the previous operation of this division or anything duly done or suffered thereunder or any offence committed or any punishment incurred thereunder and without prejudice to the making of a further proclamation of a like nature to bring this division into force.

What about any future application of this division? Let us assume the government brings down a proclamation setting the price at \$8.50 and that this proposition is defeated, the general feeling being that it is too high, whereupon the government decides to bring in a new proclamation setting the price at \$7.50. Would that still be within the powers of the legislation, should this division have been annulled by virtue of the fact that the proclamation was negated?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I must say the hon. member has raised a valid point. In effect, the division would have been in operation for a certain period of time, but it would be annulled from that point onward. Since the clause continues to operate, including the provision for proclamation, there could be a subsequent process in this regard which would, of course, then be subject to a further parliamentary decision.

Mr. Baldwin: That is how I understand it.

[Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).]

Amendment (Mr. Munro, Hamilton East) agreed to.

Clause as amended agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it the wish of the committee to revert now to clause 5 which was allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall clause 5 carry?

Clause 5 agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it the wish of the committee to revert to clause 36 which was allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall clause 36 carry?

Mr. Baldwin: On division.

Clause 36 agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it the wish of the committee to return to clause 52 as amended?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

On clause 52—*Where no price agreement effective.*

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Chairman, I should like to suggest to the committee that an amendment be made here of the same kind as we have just made with respect to clause 35, namely, an amendment to make it possible for the House, provided ten members wish to do so, to review any such proclamation within a stipulated period of time. The amendment is in substantially the same terms as the amendment to clause 35, though there are some slight changes in the wording. My colleague the Minister of Labour will move:

That Bill C-32 be amended

(a) by adding immediately after the renumbered subclause 52(2), the following:

(3) A proclamation under subsection (2) shall be laid before the House of Commons not later than 15 days after its issue, or, if Parliament is not then sitting, within the first 15 days next thereafter that Parliament is sitting.

(4) Where a proclamation has been laid before the House of Commons pursuant to subsection (3), a notice of motion in the House of Commons signed by ten members thereof and made in accordance with the rules of that House within seven days of the day the proclamation was laid before that House praying that the proclamation be revoked, shall be debated in that House at the first convenient opportunity within the four sitting days next after the day the motion in that House was made.

(5) At 15 minutes before the expiry of the time provided for government business on the second sitting day following the commencement of consideration of a motion of which notice was given under subsection (4), or at such earlier time as the House of Commons is ready for the question, the Speaker shall put the question forthwith without further debate.

(6) If the House of Commons resolves that the proclamation be revoked, this division, except this section, shall cease to be in force with effect forthwith but without prejudice to the previous operation of this division or anything duly done or suffered thereunder or any offence committed or any punishment incurred thereunder and without prejudice to the making of a further proclamation of a like nature to bring this division into force.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): I so move.