

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Bawden: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister if he would explain in some detail what he has been reading to us.

Mr. Cullen: In answer to the hon. member for Calgary South, I might say that this amendment was tabled on February 10 and passes on Canadian exploration and Canadian development expenses. Amendment (a) is a technical amendment at line 6 on page 68, deleting the reference to subsection 66.2 which was previously included in error. It is simply deleting that particular subsection. Amendment (b), the addition on line 26 at page 73 of the words "of that other taxpayer", is merely for clarification purposes.

Amendment (c), the words "and before that time" have been added at line 46 on page 73 since the calculation of the cumulative Canadian exploration expense is done at a specific point in time, and therefore any amounts paid by the taxpayer have to be determined before that specific time. Amendment (d), the words "and before that time" have been added at line 16 on page 74 since the calculation of the cumulative Canadian exploration expense is done at a specific point in time, and therefore any amounts received by the taxpayer have to be determined before that specific time. Amendment (e), the amendment at line 3 on page 75 corrects the French translation to correspond with the English version.

Amendment (f) at lines 12 and 13 on page 76 corrects the French translation to correspond with the English version. Amendment (g) is a technical amendment at lines 25 to 39 on page 78 specifying that the deductible expenses have to be incurred in Canada. Amendment (h) is a technical amendment at line 19 on page 80 which adds, for clarification purposes, the words "of that other taxpayer". Amendment (i) at line 22 on page 80 corrects a previous error. The word "and" was previously omitted by mistake. Amendment (j) at line 38 on page 80 merely corrects incorrect references.

Amendment (k) is a technical amendment at line 21 on page 81 to clarify that the amounts concerned must be paid after May 6, 1974, and before the particular time: it is necessary to add the words "before that time" since the calculation of the cumulative Canadian development expense is made at a specific point in time. In regard to (l), this amendment at line 32 on page 81 corrects a previous error. The word "development" has now been deleted as was previously intended. In regard to (m), the amendment at line 39 on page 81 corrects a previous error. The words "incurred by him" were previously omitted by mistake.

● (1600)

Mr. Bawden: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the parliamentary secretary, when he is reading from his voluminous notes, would consider reading the page number first. He reads so quickly that by the time he gets to the page number, having quoted the paragraph, subsection and subsection of subsection, it is almost impossible for us to get the page open before he is on to the next amendment. It would be helpful if he would start with the page number.

Income Tax

I should like to ask whether the amendments the parliamentary secretary is reading off so quickly and ably from his notes include recommendations which came to the minister late last week from the Canadian Petroleum Association and the Independent Petroleum Association relating to these special areas of oil and gas exploration?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Chairman, I think it is traditional in this House not to say that such and such a group came before us and as a result an amendment was made. Individuals who have made representations will know from the legislation whether their recommendations were carried out.

Mr. Gilbert: Perhaps the hon. member can tell you.

Mr. Bawden: I should like to ask the parliamentary secretary whether the amendments he is giving us today were drafted subsequent to a detailed study of the suggestions from those two associations, by the sizeable staff of the Department of Finance.

Mr. Cullen: As I have indicated, Mr. Chairman, the amendments were tabled on February 10.

Mr. Bawden: Mr. Chairman, I am specifically interested in knowing whether any of the amendments that are today being proposed were drafted after consideration of the recommendations that came from the Canadian Petroleum Association last week.

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Chairman, I tried to answer the first time the hon. member raised the question. First of all, the amendments were tabled on February 10 and, second, I think it would be inappropriate to make that kind of comment.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the amendments that the parliamentary secretary is proposing to clause 36, he has repeatedly stated that the amendments were in our hands on February 10. I think it would be fair if the parliamentary secretary went further and indicated why they were not in our hands before February 10, bearing in mind the fact that the clause was substantially contemplated when the May 6, 1974 budget was brought down. I think we should have an explanation of why such extensive amendments were not forthcoming much earlier.

In particular, I should like the parliamentary secretary to explain what prompted the amendment. Was it simply faulty draftsmanship on the part of the department, or were the amendments agreed upon after overtures were made by the private sector concerning those parts of the resolutions which gave them problems?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated, some of the amendments are corrections. In some cases, where a word or date was previously included it now has been taken out. In other cases, it was a question of having the French version correspond with the English version, and vice versa. Some amendments were in response to recommendations made to the department. We received some excellent representations and some of them have been carried forward in amendments.