

Taxation Reform

member from the Province of Saskatchewan where the oil industry is of some importance. In my view, there can be no doubt that the proposition put forward in the white paper whereby oil and mining companies would be allowed to write off their exploration and development costs, together with interest on the same, prior to being taxed on any revenues obtained as a result of their investment and development expenditures, is a correct one. But I can see no cause for granting concessions in terms of capital depletion allowances, even on the reduced scale envisaged in the white paper. I believe adequate provision has been made—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has now expired.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed the following bills without amendment:

Bill C-171, an Act to amend the Company of Young Canadians Act;

Bill C-139, and Act to amend an Act to amend the Income Tax Act.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS****REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE OF WHITE PAPER ON TAXATION REFORM**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Benson (for Mr. Macdonald, Rosedale):

That the white paper entitled Proposals for Tax Reform tabled in the House on November 7, 1969, be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

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

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, there are one or two other hon. members who were hoping to speak in this debate. They assumed that by a quarter to one we would have gone to the other place, of all places to go. I wonder whether it could not be agreed that we suspend until we hear the knock at the door.

[Mr. Burton.]

• (12:50 p.m.)

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to suspend the sitting if the hon. member gives an undertaking that the House will make an order that the debate conclude today, and that the question be put.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, we are quite prepared to agree that the question on this motion be put not later than four o'clock today.

Mr. Ricard: We are not prepared to agree to that, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Then, it is agreed that the House suspend its sitting?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Do I understand that an order of the House has been made?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Does the House agree to the suggestion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre?

Mr. Ricard: No, it is not agreed, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): It is not agreed.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Then, would you put the question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It has already been agreed that the sitting be suspended until we hear the knock on the door.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, it was agreed that we would suspend if an order of the House were made. The order was not made, so perhaps we could go on with the question.

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

Some hon. Members: Question.

[Translation]

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a few remarks.

In the same way I opposed yesterday the 3 per cent surtax, I feel it is my duty to state my opposition again today. I should like to tell the government that the proposals in the white paper have provoked many unfavourable comments in my riding, as well as elsewhere in Canada. The white paper reflects the determination of the government to continue to starve the municipalities and the