

Petroleum Administration Act

clause by clause with hon. members putting up their hands in agreement like little children. It was with this in mind that I asked the question, and I almost fainted when the minister said "yes". He usually says no, and when he replied in the affirmative I became a little suspicious. Did he say yes because he is willing to have witnesses called?

● (1640)

An hon. Member: Ask him.

Mr. Woolliams: I would like to hear what he has to say. If he said yes because he is unwilling to agree to witnesses being called and having the bill aired in the proper way rather than sweeping anything under the table about which the provinces may find out later, then we may have been fooled.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has a question of privilege.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, perhaps I may be able to put the hon. member out of his agony in this regard. I said yes to the suggestion that it be dealt with in the standing committee rather than in Committee of the Whole. It will, of course, as always is the case, be for the committee itself to determine whether it wishes to call witnesses from outside the public service for the purpose of hearings, and I will abide of course by the decision of the committee in that regard.

Mr. Woolliams: That is an answer I like, Mr. Speaker. I think you will see through that answer immediately. I have often noticed the heavy hand of the minister when dealing with a steering committee on which the Liberals are well represented. We find the heavy hand on the shoulder of the committee or its agent, who you might say is just like a parrot of the minister. He says yes when the minister tells him to say yes and no when the minister tells him to say no. If the minister were really fair, he would say that he would do everything in his power, if there should be a request from any party or from any member of this House on that committee or otherwise—that witnesses be called, to see that the committee takes the time to do so, thus making sure that this bill is aired and the facts are placed before the Canadian people. We will fight for this right, and I hope we will not be disappointed.

Now, I should like to say something about the bill. It really establishes a surtax to be charged on the price of petroleum at the wellhead which results in a price of \$6.50. I listened to the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Symes) this afternoon. I see now that the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is here but when the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie was speaking he stood alone. He said that Mr. Lougheed had overcharged Canada in respect of the agreement for a price of \$6.50. He said that the price had gone up from \$3.50 to \$4 a barrel and that, now as a result of the agreement which took place in the Prime Minister's office, they arrived at a price of \$6.50. The hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie comes from an area that is not far from western Canada and I would

[Mr. Woolliams.]

have thought he would know the NDP premier. This NDP premier said in a wonderful article which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* that he would press for the world price and that Saskatchewan would not bonus or subsidize eastern Canada.

I know Mr. Blakeney personally. Saskatchewan is my home province, although I live in the province of Alberta. Incidentally, Saskatchewan is also the home province of the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner). We went to Alberta because it is a much better place. In their talks the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and Mr. Blakeney, who was fighting for all he could get, arrived at a price of \$6.50 a barrel which no doubt was the highest price they could come up with. I agree with the premier of Alberta when he said he is the premier of Alberta but he is a Canadian first.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Woolliams: He said he is the premier of Alberta and that he wishes to represent the interests of Alberta to the best of his ability. I think he came up with the best deal under the circumstances. Mr. Blakeney must have felt the same way as the premier of Saskatchewan. I think Mr. Blakeney must frown now when he sees the Lewis', son and father—

An hon. Member: And the Holy Ghost.

Mr. Woolliams: I was not going to bring in the Holy Ghost—cruise through the province of Saskatchewan because these men embarrass Blakeney each time they speak.

I hope I have answered the question about price once and for all. When I read certain newspapers—I suppose we all on occasion become somewhat regional and really speak for the regions from which we come—and see cartoons depicting Alberta and Saskatchewan as taking advantage of the rest of Canada, all I can say is that I believe the premiers, whether NDP or Progressive Conservative, measured up pretty well as Canadians. They came up with an agreement. When speaking on television some months before, the Prime Minister said that the price of crude petroleum would be increased to a realistic price within the complex world conditions. Our leader agreed with that statement. So, I hope I do not hear any more drivel from the NDP about Alberta getting the price up, because their premier was also a party to the deal. He fought as hard as the premier of Alberta in reaching that agreement. The position taken by the members of the NDP might be good for home consumption and on the hustings but it is not honest, it is not correct and it is not fair.

The second part of the legislation is that which provides for more than \$1 billion by way of surtax from the export of crude petroleum to the United States in order to compensate the consumers of eastern Canada who are paying something like \$10 or \$11.75 a barrel for imported crude petroleum. I shall have something to say about security of supply in a few moments. Until the Prime Minister placed the surtax on the export of crude petroleum to the United States, there was no surtax income from the oil in order to subsidize Quebec and the maritime provinces to the extent of \$1¼ billion or \$1½ billion depending on the total amount of exports approved by the National Energy Board. However, I believe the figure is about one million