

Energy Supplies Emergency Act

● (1650)

In the last few days, provinces which usually are not in the forefront of the national scene have come to the fore because it has been recognized at the national level how important are the commodities, oil and natural gas, which are produced in those provinces. Therefore, I shall talk about the oil situation in Saskatchewan, and its implications for Canada. I want to discuss the impact on Saskatchewan of the provincial government's oil policy, as this was discussed in the provincial legislature of Saskatchewan this week.

Speaking on behalf of many citizens of Saskatchewan, may I say that I was astounded at the misinterpretation of the remarks made by the premier of Saskatchewan to the people of Saskatchewan earlier this week. I shall deal with the situation in Saskatchewan. Then, I shall deal with the kinds of policies enunciated by the government of Saskatchewan to meet the situation. Then, I shall refer to the possible effects of that policy on other provincial governments, and, indeed, on future energy policy in Canada.

The present oil reserves of Saskatchewan are some 800 million barrels. Our rate of discovery of new reserves has levelled off in the last seven years. Although our rate of discovery of new reserves has levelled off, our production rate continues at 80 million barrels per day. At that production rate, the oil fields of Saskatchewan will have a life span of at least ten years and, at most, of 15 years. Of course, if we discover more reserves through exploration, the life span of Saskatchewan fields will be extended.

Let me say that the private interests, the oil corporations, which have developed our oil resources have been well rewarded for developing those oil resources. May I add, in parenthesis, that natural gas in Saskatchewan has always been under the charge of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation, a public body. Natural gas is one area where there has not been a price increase in Saskatchewan, mainly because gas comes under public ownership and the resource has been utilized in a proper manner.

The oil companies have been well rewarded. Let me quote some figures relating to Saskatchewan. By 1964, the oil industry collectively had found and sold enough oil to recover the costs of exploration and production. Since 1964, Mr. Speaker, \$800 million in profits have been taken from Saskatchewan. Until recently, prices ranged between \$2 and \$2.50 per barrel. Compare that price with present rising prices. In view of high world prices, multinational oil companies operating in Saskatchewan, and in Alberta, now have an opportunity to amass massive profits from Saskatchewan. They can use that capital for the development of oil elsewhere in Canada, that is true. On the other hand, the multinationals can use those capital funds for the development of oil fields anywhere in the world. They can take millions upon millions of dollars from Saskatchewan by way of profits from oil and other natural resources and invest that money anywhere they like. That cannot be tolerated by any level of government be it the provincial government of Saskatchewan, the federal government of Canada, or the government of any country.

We must make sure in the public interest that resources derived from development in Saskatchewan and massive profits taken from oil produced in Saskatchewan are used for development, expansion, exploration, research and

[Mr. Knight.]

refining in the province of Saskatchewan. The multinational corporations should not be allowed to take their money out and invest it anywhere on the globe, as they see fit. May I call it five o'clock? I wish to expand on my remarks at eight o'clock.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have the honour to inform this House that a message has been received from the Senate informing this House that the Senate has passed Bill C-176, an Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Crown Liability Act and the Official Secrets Act, with an amendment to which the concurrence of this House is desired.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Send it back.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 40 I must advise the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Carter)—Fisheries—Proposed licensing policy for east coast fishermen—Social implications in Newfoundland; the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez)—Regional economic expansion—Proposal to establish regional offices—Position of northern Ontario; the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon)—Air transport—Head tax on passengers—Suggested change for passengers using feeder airlines.

[English]

Mr. Lefebvre: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that negotiations have gone on between the parties and there would be agreement to spend the first few minutes of the private members' hour giving third reading to Bill S-7, standing in the name of the hon. member for Welland (Mr. Railton) and, following that, to consider notice of motion for the production of papers No. 91, standing in the name of the hon. member for Toronto-Lakeshore (Mr. Grier).

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WAYS AND MEANS

EXCISE TAX ACT—RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps, before we reach private members' hour, I might be allowed to make a brief ruling following the point of order which was brought up. Earlier today when government orders were called, the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) raised a point of order as to the validity of the notice of ways and means with respect