

Mr. Dinsdale: Is the hon. member aware that there are 20 other committees which also had meetings?

Mr. Young: Yes, but certainly I would suggest that having prepared a motion of this importance to the hon. member, he himself might have attended the committee meetings at that time. We often switch around from committee to committee when there is a matter of some interest to us being discussed by a certain committee.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[*English*]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

● (1800)

[*Translation*]

And being returned:

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have the honour to inform the House that when the House went up to the Senate chamber, the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, has been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bills:

Bill C-59, An Act to provide for the resumption and continuation of longshoring, checking, cargo repairing and related operations at certain ports in the Province of Quebec.—Chapter No. 39.

Bill C-43, An Act to amend the Law Reform Commission Act.—Chapter No. 40.

Bill C-48, An Act to amend the Railway Act.—Chapter No. 41.

Bill C-26, An Act to amend the Civil Service Insurance Act.—Chapter No. 42.

Bill S-9, An Act to repeal the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act and to amend the Trade Marks Act.—Chapter No. 43.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION ACT

MEASURE RESPECTING THE ADMINISTRATION OF INTERPROVINCIAL, EXPORT AND IMPORT TRADE IN PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

The House resumed consideration in committee of Bill C-32, to impose a charge on the export of crude oil and certain petroleum products, to provide compensation for certain petroleum costs and to regulate the price of Canadian crude oil and natural gas in interprovincial and

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export trade—Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale)—Mrs. Morin in the chair.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: It being after six o'clock, I leave the chair to resume at 8 p.m.

At 6.05 p.m. the Committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

On clause 21—*Purpose*.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, at five o'clock I was speaking to the amendment we are proposing to clause 21. I had almost completed my remarks. I wish to reiterate strongly that the setting of prices of natural resources should not be a unilateral decision on the part of the federal government. The purpose of my amendment is to make it mandatory that the government, in setting prices, consult with the provinces, which constitutionally and, we believe, without question, own the resources.

It was not until the unique and strange experience in the Middle East that this fundamental principle came into question. We do not believe that the constitution should be rewritten through legislation of this kind in response to a particular phenomenon which developed far from Canadian shores. For these reasons I hope the minister will accept the amendment we have proposed.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Chairman, I wish to deal with the amendment itself. We have taken the opportunity to consider this, having had a copy of it from the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain since late 1974.

It could be described as adding an editorial opinion to the legislation. It certainly has no effect in law with regard to the arrangement involved here. The hon. member for Don Valley said that he and his party were in favour of a procedure for consultation and that he hoped to achieve it by the adoption of his amendment. He overlooks the fact that in clause 22 and following clauses there are expressly stipulated in the bill provisions for just such consultation between the federal and provincial governments in an effort to reach agreement on an appropriate price. That is the whole context of division one of this particular part, namely, that there should be discussions between the two levels of government in an effort to reach agreement.

I am leaping ahead of myself, but clause 21 applies to both divisions of this part. The question is: what happens if agreement is not possible? If the Province of Alberta, for example, says that it should receive \$1.30 or \$1.35 for natural gas and a higher price for a barrel of oil, and the federal government says that because of the state of the economy and because of the impact this will have on other parts of the community it is far too high, and we simply cannot agree with that, the position the hon. gentleman would have us take is that—since the word veto has been used—if there is to be a veto in this regard, the veto should reside with the producing provinces. He would say that the provinces should be entitled to say to the rest of