

Energy

The public has many unanswered questions. How come in one part of Canada the gas we use for our cars costs \$1 a gallon, elsewhere 90 cents and elsewhere again \$1.04, as in some areas of the province of Quebec? Even within that same province, along Highway 20, gas sells for so much but if you leave that road and drive to a nearby village, the price is different. I admit these prices are under provincial jurisdiction. I realize that but how come, Mr. Speaker—because it still is within Canada—we are unable to establish a uniform price? It is a shock when you get near a gas station to fill up your car and you look at the price. In some places, where the price posted is 52 cents a half gallon, that means \$1.04 a gallon. If you leave Highway 20 ten miles farther it goes for 89 cents. The company is not important, whatever the company that provides the gas to fill the retailer's tanks, at one place gas costs 89 cents and at another \$1.04. This is for the same grade. I should add that the price at both stations is for unleaded gas. Why can there not be a uniform price?

Mr. Speaker, I realize that this is not the responsibility of the federal government. I am well aware of this. However it should be possible for the federal and the provincial governments to come to an agreement so that the consumer might pay a uniform price for the same product. The same thing applies to heating oil. In one municipality it costs 54 cents and in another one 48 cents. I imagine that the distributors are honest men and that they offer products of the same quality, that they do not sell us heating oil of a given quality in one region and heating oil of another quality elsewhere. I am not qualified to do quality analyses. Not at all. But I regularly receive representations. Again yesterday I was asked for explanations. I cannot reply because I do not have the necessary information. I believe that during such a debate perhaps the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) could give us information on this subject when he speaks at the report stage.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe in the predictions of the great geniuses who tell us that our resources are limited to so many barrels. I had the opportunity to visit the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories with the committee of the House. We even visited an artificial island in the Beaufort Sea in the Arctic, and I was able to speak to those responsible for exploration in that area. There was one well more than 3,000 feet deep. I asked: Are you finding oil? Of course, they are finding oil. The operator who replied to me said: "I have been doing research for the same company for 18 years and this is the first time that I find such a productive well." What do you do with that? "Well", he said, "when we have finished exploring, we will install a valve and close it; that will be part of our reserves for the future." I am very happy about that, Mr. Speaker, but what struck me was the wealth Providence has provided us with in that whole territory. I had slightly different ideas from what I say in the Arctic. I thought that land was so cold that God had forgotten to put anything there.

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

Then I discovered that the Creator had thought of everything. I marvelled at the sight of banks of gravel in those frozen territories. With loaders they could get better gravel there than in Quebec, in the form of crushed ballast.

I was absolutely amazed, and then we drove over miles and miles of roads built of gravel spread over ice. I also found it absolutely extraordinary that companies had managed to build villages with the possibilities for all the services we find back home.

• (1652)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald)—Status of Women—Equal opportunity programs for women in Public Service; the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Symes)—Transport—Future of ship canal at Sault Ste. Marie; the hon. member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Scott)—Trade—Discrepancies in retail price of gasoline—Request for investigation.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions and public bills.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

Mr. Roger Young (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I believe there is agreement to proceed at this time with notice of motion No. 27 standing in the name of the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Wenman). If that is agreeable to the House, I would ask that all notices of motions preceding motion No. 27 be allowed to stand by unanimous consent.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Is there unanimous consent to stand notices of motions Nos. 4, 11, 21, 24 and 26?

Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil): Mr. Speaker, at this late date in the session the action I am intending to take is only as a result of some rulings which were made earlier in the session. Since the motions that precede the motion which is going to be considered this afternoon were placed on the order paper almost six months ago, this should be recorded as the first time