

*Oil Policy*

allowed to go into debt again, up to \$500. The measure therefore is not likely to help the businessman or even the wage earner.

For instance, if a wage earner owes \$200 or \$300 to a small businessman and is allowed to repay his debt in monthly instalments of \$10, \$15 or \$20, this will jeopardize the business of the small businessman who has extended credit. Now, under the new act, the government does not help the small businessman and will not be able to prevent bankruptcies. It is possible to keep an individual from going bankrupt. It is expensive for a man to declare bankruptcy, but it will cost him less to make monthly repayments. This is not, however, a solution to the present problem.

The minister clearly states that the problem in Canada is not one of production and purchase. The problem, in my opinion, is related to the repayment or payment of items bought. The Créditistes are quite aware of the problem and are suggesting to the government solutions which are not meant to drive everyone to bankruptcy, but to help everyone to become solvent following bankruptcies brought about by the government.

[English]

### NATIONAL RESOURCES AND PUBLIC WORKS

#### CONCURRENCE IN FOURTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

**Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Renfrew North)** moved that the fourth report of the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works, presented to the House on May 1, 1970, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

• (2:20 p.m.)

### OIL

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPLICATION OF PART VI, NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD ACT—AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a proclamation of the Governor in Council dated May 7, 1970, relating to Part VI of the National Energy Board Act. The proclamation was made by the Governor in Council in accordance with section 87(1) of the National Energy Board Act and I am tabling it at this time in accordance with section 87(4) of the Act.

For the information of hon. members I am also tabling amendments to the National Energy Board Part VI regulations, which have the effect of limiting the application of controls under the Act to imports of motor gasoline into Canada, east of the province of Manitoba. The amendments also provide more complete reporting procedures for the importation and transfer of oil and oil products.

The purpose in making Part VI of the National Energy Board Act applicable to oil is to facilitate the enforcement of the national oil policy, which has now been in effect since 1961. As members know, the policy provides for markets west of the Ottawa Valley to be supplied substantially from Canadian crude. It is to the credit of the industry that the policy has worked well on a voluntary basis since its inception. However, it is now being jeopardized by the risk of increasing movements of foreign-origin product into Ontario west of the Ottawa Valley.

The western Canadian oil industry has flourished under the national oil policy to the well-being not only of western Canada but of the country as a whole, as all parts of Canada enjoy the downstream benefits of a thriving western Canadian oil industry. Therefore it is in the interests of all Canadians that the policy be maintained in order that the western Canadian oil industry may continue to thrive and prosper.

I would expect the National Energy Board to administer these new provisions in a manner which will result in non-disruption of supply and will provide for orderly and equitable conformity with the national oil policy.

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have neither the National Energy Board Act nor the regulations before me and thus am not able to determine what the actual effect of these changes will be. I am sorry that the minister did not make it very clear in his statement what the effect will be. If it is, as I hope, that the flow of gasoline and oil from foreign sources into the area west of the Ottawa Valley is now going to be effectively controlled, then this action certainly has my full support. I only regret that the government has been so long in taking steps in this direction. Several times during the past two or three years I have asked questions in the House concerning what action the National Energy Board and the government were prepared to take in order to prevent substantial importation of foreign gasoline