

*National Energy Program*

their own House leader about the requirement for unanimous consent allowing him to table the report at this time. In so far as I am concerned, even if the Tories had played a trick in committee this morning, I was nice and said, "Fine, no problem. We will agree that the report be tabled". But tonight at eight o'clock they denied that consent. We presume that their members on the committee who played the trick were able to put their act together and tell their own House leader that they wanted to give consent so that the report would be presented on time tonight. But they themselves denied that consent. They cannot get their act together, and they must suffer the consequences.

Let me point out also that the Standing Orders are very clear. Under the Standing Orders, when ten o'clock is called, all reports are deemed to have been made. Even if we were to consent now, it would be too late. So for all those reasons, we want Your Honour to call it ten o'clock.

**Mr. Deans:** Madam Speaker, I just wanted to add that, from our point of view, we would be happy both to have the hour extended to allow for continued discussion and to have the motion from the standing committee reintroduced. We gave approval for it earlier in the evening. We would be happy to give approval again if the government House leader felt the urge to present once again the standing committee report.

**Madam Speaker:** Well, it is past ten o'clock. It is true that I do have the discretion under Standing Order 15(3) to allow hon. members to ask questions when the minister makes a statement in the House, and I have done just that. But that discretion given to me under Standing Order 15(3) is limited by Standing Order 40 which tells me that at ten o'clock I must call the adjournment debate, and that is what I was prepared to do. I received no indication from anyone in the House that we were to go beyond ten o'clock. Therefore, in conformity with Standing Order 40—the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr. Clark:** I rise on a point of order, Madam Speaker. First of all, I regret that the government House leader referred to any party suffering the consequences of its actions in the House. That indicates a state of mind in his part which could bode ill for the future conduct in the House of Commons.

**Mr. Pinard:** Oh, you blackmailer.

**Mr. Clark:** Let me simply rise at this point, since there has been the expression by the New Democratic Party of its interest in having the committee report of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development presented. That was moved by an hon. member of the Liberal Party, the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Penner), and I believe it was supported by other hon. members of that party. Since the inadvertence, in terms of informing our deputy House leader, was on this side of the House, which I accept, and since our party, now that our deputy House leader has been informed of the circumstances, would certainly be prepared to allow the House to accept a report of a committee of the House, as Leader of the Opposition I would therefore like to ask the unanimous consent of the House of Commons to

revert to motions to allow the most recent report of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development to be received by the House as a matter of courtesy to hon. members of the House.

• (2210)

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, there are two points. First, the Leader of the Opposition seems to recognize that it was the error of the Conservative Party that they did not give the appropriate consent earlier this evening. Considering that admission of error, and the fact that they cannot get their act together, I am willing to take their request under consideration and tomorrow see whether we can agree that the motion be moved by the chairman of the committee. I am not in a position tonight to give that consent.

**Madam Speaker:** It is quite clear that the House does not give unanimous consent to have the report presented to the House.

**Mr. Clark:** Madam Speaker, I am sure it was entirely by inadvertence that the government House leader, in offering to consider this matter, has overlooked the consequences of the committee report being considered tomorrow. That report, because of rules with which the Chair is familiar and with which the government House leader on reflection is familiar, if it is not received by midnight tonight, May 31, the end of our sitting for May 31, will be null and void. It will have no effect.

The minister, who spoke earlier of tricks, has, I am sure inadvertently, put himself in a position where he might be practising that sort of thing himself. I know he would not want to do that. I know he would want to give the House of Commons the opportunity to accept the report of the committee of this House. According to the rules of the House, we can only do that before the end of this parliamentary day.

If there is a delay until tomorrow, the Parliament of Canada will have acted deliberately to deny a report of a standing committee of the House of Commons to be considered by the House of Commons. I am sure that is a matter the House of Commons would not want to have occur.

Since the government House leader has indicated his willingness to look at my request in a positive way, now that I have brought to his attention the fatal implications for that report of the standing committee of his not agreeing to have that motion accepted now, in the interest of having some reasonable conduct and courtesy prevail in the House of Commons, he would be prepared now to give me the unanimous consent that I, in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition, request.

I am sure that other hon. members would be quite prepared, as I have been in the past, to extend the courtesy of accepting the request. I am sure they would return that courtesy tonight to allow Parliament to function.

After all, we are but a week away from the introduction of rules to reform the Parliament of Canada. If this is a demonstration of the spirit of a reference to a committee—