

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

## POINT OF ORDER

MR. ANDRE—IMPOSITION OF LEVY UNDER PETROLEUM  
ADMINISTRATION ACT

**Madam Speaker:** I will now rule on the point of order that was raised earlier by the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre). The hon. member raised a point of order to say that the procedure followed by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) was not the correct procedure.

The hon. member says that the ways and means motion proposes to amend the Petroleum Administration Act which was not initiated by a ways and means motion. The hon. member is probably aware that the parent act was in fact initiated by both a ways and means motion and the notice of motion for introduction with an accompanying royal recommendation. But he is, of course, correct when he says that the provision of the parent act which is now to be amended was not covered in the original ways and means motion.

There has been considerable argument about the legality of the particular procedures which the minister is choosing in the present case, but the House will know that the Chair can never pronounce upon issues of a legal nature, it can rule only on questions of order. Therefore I must return to the precise point of order involved in this issue, that is to say, has the minister acted within the ambit of the standing order in tabling a notice of ways and means motion. The substance of that motion, or the effect of that notice, can be of no concern to the Chair. Hon. members will be aware that our records will show that there are many ways and means motions which were never adopted.

I therefore must find that the procedures followed so far have been in order. However, this does not preclude the Chair from entertaining further points of order in connection with the matter at further stages in the process.

I want to close by thanking hon. members for their careful attention and assistance to the Chair in this difficult point of procedure.

The House had agreed that we would revert to statements by ministers after this ruling. It is the pleasure of the House to revert now to statements by ministers?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Pinard:** I rise on a point of order, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** The President of the Privy Council on a point of order.

*Price of Petroleum*

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, I would seek agreement to revert to statements by ministers. Of course under the standing orders you have the required discretion to limit the proceedings, taking into consideration the interventions made up to now. As for us, we fully agree that the House should have the opportunity to ask questions of the minister. We hope that after some discussions with my colleagues, the proceedings will not be extended past six o'clock and adjourned even before if possible.

[English]

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for the discussions that we had. It is our hope that that is not so either. It is difficult to predict, as my colleague knows, because we have not yet heard the minister's statement. However, I want to assure you, Madam Speaker, that there will be nothing to protract any proceedings inordinately that may follow out of this statement.

**Mr. Knowles:** Madam Speaker, my contribution to this not being prolonged is simply to say that we agree.

[Translation]

**Madam Speaker:** In any event I would have to obtain the unanimous consent of the House in a few minutes not to see the clock. I will hear the minister but in a few minutes I will have to interrupt him for that reason.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde).

**Mr. Lalonde:** Madam Speaker, to make things easier for you, perhaps I could point out that it is already five o'clock. Perhaps you might seek the unanimous consent of the House so that we can proceed?

**Madam Speaker:** Does the House agree that the Chair should not see the clock?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Madam Speaker:** I have the unanimous consent of the House. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

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[English]

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

EFFECT OF WAYS AND MEANS MOTION ON PRICE OF  
PETROLEUM

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I am glad the House agreed that we can take some additional time to debate and discuss this notice of ways and means motion to amend the Petroleum Administration Act. This should give time to the House to examine all the aspects of the particular motion and its implications.