

or, if Parliament is not then sitting, on any of the first fifteen days next thereafter that Parliament is sitting.”

I have a number of copies here which I will hand to the page. I regret that the French translation is not on this sheet, but members will appreciate that the people who have been helping with these amendments have been working very hard to get them all done. I hope that will not be overlooked. The French version is coming.

The Chairman: It is moved by Senator Roblin, seconded by Senator Macdonald:

That Bill C-42 be amended by adding immediately after line 7 on page 5 the following subclause:

“(2.1) An order made under subsection (2) shall be laid before Parliament forthwith upon the making thereof or, if Parliament is not then sitting, on any of the first fifteen days next thereafter that Parliament is sitting.”

Senator Perrault: Question!

The Chairman: Those in favour please rise.

Those against the motion will please rise.

The Clerk of the Senate: Yeas 9. Nays 16.

The Chairman: I declare the amendment lost. Shall clause 9 carry?

Senator Grosart: Madam Chairman, I have a question regarding clause 9(4), the answer to which might be fairly long.

Senator McDonald: I move, seconded by Senator Petten, that the chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

The Chairman: It is moved by Senator McDonald, seconded by Senator Petten, that the chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Motion agreed to.

The Hon. the Speaker: The sitting of the Senate is resumed.

Senator Neiman: Madam Speaker, the committee to which was referred Bill C-42, to provide a means to conserve the supplies of energy within Canada during periods of national emergency caused by shortages or market disturbances affecting the national security and welfare and the economic stability of Canada, has taken the said bill into consideration, has made some progress thereon, and asks leave to sit again.

The Hon. the Speaker: When shall this committee have leave to sit again?

Senator McDonald: At the call of the bell at approximately 2.15 p.m.

The Hon. the Speaker: It is moved by the Honourable Senator McDonald, seconded by the Honourable Senator Per-

rault, P.C., that the committee have leave to sit again at the call of the bell at approximately 2.15 p.m. this day.

Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Motion agreed to.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

At 2.25 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure and was put into Committee of the Whole to further consider Bill C-42, to provide a means to conserve the supplies of energy within Canada during periods of national emergency caused by shortages or market disturbances affecting the national security and welfare and the economic stability of Canada, the Honourable Senator Neiman, in the Chair.

Pursuant to rule 18 of the Rules of the Senate, the Honourable Alastair William Gillespie, P.C., Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and Minister of State for Science and Technology, was escorted to a seat in the Senate Chamber.

The Chairman: Honourable senators, we shall continue our clause-by-clause study of Bill C-42. We are now on clause 9, and Senator Grosart, I believe, has some questions to put.

Senator Grosart: Thank you, Madam Chairman. May I direct a question to the minister arising out of subclauses (4), (5) and (6) of clause 9, which deal with the international obligations we have acquired under the 1974 agreement? Subclause 9(4) requires the board to “study and keep under review all matters relevant to a full understanding of the international petroleum supply situation” and report thereon to the minister.

It seems obvious that what has happened here is that the government—not Parliament, the government—has acquired certain obligations, and one of the purposes—one, not all—of the bill before us is to enable the government to discharge those obligations.

I would ask the minister to give us a review of the circumstances under which these obligations were entered into, and why we have had such a fairly long interval in which we seem to have been completely oblivious or negligent about our obligations. I would also ask the minister to give the committee some indication as to the status, in international law, of this agreement. Is it what is sometimes called a capital “T” treaty? Was it ratified; and, if so, how? Was it at any time assented to or discussed in Parliament?

As honourable senators know, I have on more than one occasion raised this whole question of the so-called prerogative of the Crown to obligate Canada in advance of coming to Parliament for acceptance of the undertaking by some form or other—ratification, or whatever it might be. So, I would ask what our obligations are, and, so as to put my whole question in one package, I would also ask the minister to indicate to the committee the procedure that would be followed if those obligations were suddenly to fall on Canada or the Govern-