

ment of the program, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Kindersley-Lloydminster (Mr. McKnight):

That this House condemns the Canadian Wheat Board's inept attempt to inform farmers of the details of the Market Assurance Plan and that this House calls upon the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board to take responsibility for the Market Assurance Plan in the name of the farmers he purports to represent, and ensure that they are provided with accurate and complete specifics of the plan, and also with alternative plans which have been put forward, so that the farmers themselves can decide which program, if any, they want.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

CALL FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION TO AID BIGSTONE INDIAN BAND OF WABASCA, ALTA.—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Madam Speaker, whereas over 150 members of the Bigstone Band of Wabasca, Alberta, including some elderly people and some children, have completed the first leg of their 240-mile march to Edmonton to protest the high rates of unemployment, poverty, poor housing, inadequate health services, and lack of funding for economic development, which continue to plague their everyday lives; and whereas the government's response to the plight of these native people has been almost non-existent, despite Telex messages from the Chief to the Prime Minister's office; and whereas the Bigstone Band is representative of the problems which exist for native people all across Canada, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger):

That this House direct the government to demonstrate its good faith and its pledge to honour and protect the special rights of Canada's first people in the Constitution by acting immediately to rectify the severe destitution now facing the Bigstone Band and, indeed, all native people in this nation.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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● (1415)

NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

CALL FOR ROLL BACK—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to alert this House to an economic crisis of alarming magnitude. We have already pointed out that the 100th oil drilling rig has left Canada and crossed the United States border. Today I have learned that

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the sale of drilling licences in Alberta, which were valued at \$280 million for 1.5 million acres in the first quarter of 1980, have dropped to \$62 million for 555,975 acres in the first quarter of 1981, a decrease in dollar value in the order of 78 per cent. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Calgary South (Mr. Thomson):

That the Prime Minister himself personally intervene to roll back the negative National Energy Program which is wreaking economic and social ruin and havoc in Canada.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LEGAL OPINION

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and it relates to the so-called Kirby document, the strategy document that was set out by the government in the summer of last year, which indicated the way it could get its constitutional package through. I wonder if the Prime Minister could tell the House whether the government has an opinion from the Department of Justice that:

—a law passed by the U.K. parliament to patriate the Constitution, with an amendment formula and other changes, could not be successfully attacked in the Canadian courts.

I would also like to ask the Prime Minister, in light of the unusual interest in a situation where action by the British parliament could not be challenged by the Canadian courts, whether the Prime Minister would take the unusual step, in these unusual circumstances, of publishing that legal opinion of the Department of Justice.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I indicated to this House before that I have seen the so-called Kirby document but I had not read it. I therefore cannot answer the question as to whether there is any legal opinion to that effect. However, it seems to me that if the Leader of the Opposition had any fears in that regard, they would have been dissipated by the proposal I made earlier this week to the effect that we would not, in fact, go to Great Britain, if the Supreme Court of Canada ruled against the constitutionality of the motion now before the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!