

prior to your decision, that could be done tonight after the vote.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I shall leave it to Your Honour to decide when the matter is to be debated and when Your Honour makes a ruling, but I submit that the notice of opposition is faulty in that it is not a notice of opposition to an entire item.

I also submit that the amendment in the name of the hon. member for Yukon amending the motion put down in the name of the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury) for the reduction of that item is likewise out of order.

Some hon. Members: Order, order!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): At the point when the motion of the President of the Treasury Board is made there will be no debate and therefore no amendment is in order. I think that even my friends in the official opposition would like to know how we are to proceed today.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has raised two points, the first relating to the possible order of precedence for consideration of motions which are on the order paper in relation to the business of supply. I am sure all hon. members will agree that priority should be given to the motion in the name of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), which is a non-confidence motion.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has asked a question which may be of interest, but which is not entirely relevant at this particular moment, and that is the question as to when the other two motions standing in the name of the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby and in the name of the hon. member for Calgary North might be discussed. Assuming these motions were in order they would have to be discussed, debated or considered as supply business on a supply day, but not on this day. That is obvious enough.

I appreciate the other point of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre in respect of the motion of the hon. member for Yukon in the form of an amendment to the notice of opposition to vote 20a, but perhaps it would be fair to allow the hon. Leader of the Opposition to proceed with his motion, a caveat having been entered by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, with which I associate myself. I am sure the hon. member for Yukon has some reservations about the procedural acceptability of either or both of these matters, and perhaps this matter can be looked at later this day.

If for any reason the motion in the name of the Leader of the Opposition came to a vote before 9.45 this evening, this might give us an opportunity to look at the procedural question; otherwise, it would be dealt with sometime after ten o'clock this evening.

Energy

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 58—NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION—
ALLEGED LOSS TO PUBLIC AS RESULT OF ENERGY
POLICY OF GOVERNMENT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition) moved:

That this House has lost confidence in the government due to its incompetent, inconsistent and vacillating energy policy which is bringing economic loss to Canada and hardship to the consuming public.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I have half an hour under the rules. The dust was just starting to settle Saturday evening following the two speeches made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau); one on Thursday and one on Friday, when I turned my radio on shortly after six o'clock and heard the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) reported as having said: "The alliance has some tough problems to face but I do not think it is in danger". It took me a few seconds to realize the minister was talking about NATO and not the alliance between the Liberals and the NDP. But one thing the Prime Minister has certainly guaranteed—and indeed, Sir, has gone out of his way to guarantee—is that the alliance which is the confederation of Canada will certainly have some tough problems to face in the days ahead. I intend to focus on some of these problems today in presenting this motion of non-confidence.

● (1520)

[Translation]

I want to make it clear that my remarks today are directed to the Canadian people. It is not possible, Mr. Speaker, to speak to the government on questions of principles for it has none. Neither is it possible to address the New Democratic Party for its members are in a rather particular position. After the word of a former prime minister of Great Britain, they are in the position of those who have power without the attendant responsibility. In short, this is a completely new form of parliamentary democracy.

[English]

But all that sort of business, aside, Mr. Speaker, nothing is so critical or crucial as the fact that anybody can clearly see where this is leading. The Prime Minister on Thursday last proclaimed the basis for a new national energy policy which was neither his policy—we all know that—nor more important was it a national policy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: Sir, it was a hoax and a fraud misrepresented to be misunderstood. I say most emphatically that while we believed before last Thursday there was no reason for us to have confidence in this government, we believe it even more strongly today. Sir Charles Dickens created a character called "The Artful Dodger". The name has a contemporary application with a minor modification. I think a writer chronicling developments of the present government could do worse than describe the Prime Min-