

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Are there 20 members or more who support the application?

And more than 20 members having risen:

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 26 there will be an order granted that at eight o'clock this evening the motion will be moved by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, seconded by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby, "That the House do now adjourn."

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I got up because I welcome the debate. The only difficulty and puzzlement I am having is in the fact that the opposition has had about four or five occasions in the last two weeks to debate this thing and it has not considered it important enough to raise the matter at those times.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before calling orders of the day and recognizing the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Milne), the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) rises on a question of privilege.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. RODRIGUEZ—STATEMENTS IN AFFIDAVIT ATTACHED TO PETITION TABLED BY HON. MEMBER FOR CENTRAL NOVA

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Earlier today the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. Mackay) tabled a petition in the House to which there was attached an affidavit by one Mr. Hart. In that affidavit there are certain statements made which I find rather disturbing, and I think there is need for some further investigation on the part of myself and my party regarding certain activities of surveillance in respect of my person in conversation with other persons.

Since the petition was tabled in the House the hon. member for Central Nova has shown me a picture of the person who made the statements in the affidavit, and I identified such person as being the one who chauffeured a car in which I was a passenger with another person and we did conduct a conversation. I would, therefore, at this time reserve my right to raise this matter at a later date after my party and I have fully examined the contents of the affidavit and all the relevant material attached to that deposition.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have not had an opportunity to examine the contents of the petition that has been put forward, and now referred to by the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez). I certainly take his intervention at the moment as notice regarding the preservation of his right to raise a question of privilege in respect of anything that may be contained therein.

Northern Pipeline

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

NORTHERN PIPELINE ACT

ESTABLISHMENT OF AGENCY TO SUPERVISE PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

The House resumed, from Tuesday, February 21, consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen that Bill C-25, to establish the Northern Pipeline Agency, to facilitate the planning and construction of a pipeline for the transmission of natural gas from Alaska and northern Canada and to give effect to an agreement between Canada and the United States of America on principles applicable to such a pipeline and to amend certain Acts in relation thereto, be read the second time and referred to the special committee on a northern gas pipeline.

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words on this important bill before the House, a bill to establish the authority to proceed with the northern pipeline, or the Alcan pipeline as it is called.

Last year the NDP argued for the Alcan pipeline route as opposed to the Mackenzie Valley route to bring natural gas down from the Arctic, primarily for United States markets. We argued that the Alcan pipeline route through Alaska, the Yukon, British Columbia and Alberta would be far superior to the so-called Mackenzie Valley route from the High Arctic southward through Canada to the United States.

In that debate last August we outlined the conditions we felt had to be met in order to protect people living in the area and to ensure that Canadians got the major benefits in terms of contracts and work. Our position has not changed in that respect.

● (1632)

What worries myself and my colleagues is that the bill before us incorporates an inadequate treaty which has since been signed between Canada and the United States concerning this matter of a pipeline. The treaty has a large number of very important deficiencies which mitigate against the best interests of Canada. That is why my party objects to the bill before us. It merely ratifies a treaty which has some very serious flaws in it.

The Alcan pipeline is one of the largest construction projects which Canada will ever experience. It has the great potential of being a project which will benefit Canada in terms of employment, steel contracts, and making Canadians enthused about its success. It will be a unifying force. At the same time the project is fraught with many disadvantages.

Unless this bill is changed and amended, we will have a bill, and hence a treaty and a project, that will not maximize benefits for Canadians. I do not think any hon. member should be in a position of having to vote for a piece of legislation which does not maximize benefits for Canadians. This project will cost \$10 billion in total. The Canadian portion will cost \$4.2 billion. There will be 730 miles of pipe in Alaska, 2,025