

told. Nevertheless, whether I am right or the hon. member is right really does not make a difference. There are inequities which always result from an application of a rule. If we adopt a rule now to take care of a man with 364 days' service, then what about the man with 363 days? If we adopt a rule to protect a man with 363 days, or 362 days, what about the man with 361 days? There is always a problem.

An hon. Member: It's incredible the way hon. members talk these bills out.

Mr. Francis: The hon. member did a fair amount of talking. He talked for a little over 20 minutes. He seems to have some difficulty in accepting the idea that I should express my thoughts in the two and a half minutes which remain to me.

An hon. Member: You people are incredible.

Mr. Francis: I would welcome the hon. member's participation at the committee. I know he has attended, but we are now looking at Bill C-12. We looked at indexing in the bill before us at the committee.

If the motion in its present form were passed it would, by the year 1983, make the entire provision that is the subject of this motion irrelevant, because age, and age alone, would be the consideration. Years of service would not be a consideration in eligibility for escalation. We do have a problem as pointed out by those who testified before the committee. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) has pointed this out very well, particularly in respect of members of the RCMP or air traffic controllers who are compulsorily retired prior to age 60. The representations made before the committee for continuation of indexing were strong, and I believe we will have to look hard at this aspect of the problem.

The fact remains that what is before us is a provision dealing with indexing as a general principle, and a means of financing it. The problem of particular groups who are compulsorily retired before age 60 is only in part answered by a pension. What really is involved is a program by the Government of Canada to provide alternative employment, and to make sure that employment in the public service of Canada, as an example, is available to such persons on equal terms, which is not always the case in present circumstances. The problem—

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The hour provided for the consideration of private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock tonight.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

● (2000)

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

Energy Supplies

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

ENERGY SUPPLIES EMERGENCY ACT, 1979

MEASURE TO CONSERVE STOCKS

The House resumed consideration of 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, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works, and motion No. 5 (Mr. Symes).

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Just before the dinner hour, Mr. Speaker, the House was dealing with this amendment following a speech by the minister which seemed to imply that, in his view, the only way the Government of Canada could appropriately deal with foreign governments involving the supply of imported petroleum into our country was through the instrument of Petro-Canada, Petro-Can, or whatever it is called.

In the course of his remarks the minister attempted to leave the impression with the House of Commons that he, as minister, the Government of Canada, and the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. De Bané) as part of the apparatus of the government, on the one hand was unable to deal effectively with foreign countries, and that there was no agency other than Petro-Canada by which Canada could assure itself of a supply of imported petroleum products, aside from exploration, drilling, and all the other things outlined in the statute dealing with Petro-Canada.

I advanced the theory as respectfully as I could, in the face of the opinion advanced by the minister, that the minister was wrong. During the dinner hour I went to the library to assure myself that indeed he was wrong. Had the minister been right, then I would have had some information upon which I could withdraw my submission. This followed an interesting conversation in the lobby with the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichin-The Islands (Mr. Douglas) in which we discussed this problem. I did not want to accuse the minister of being wrong if he is right.

● (2010)

I looked into the statute books and found the statute which established the Canadian Commercial Corporation a considerable time ago. For the information of the House, this is in the Revised Statutes of Canada, Chapter 35. This parliament established a corporation, an acquisition corporation because that is its basic thrust, which has the power to import and export goods and services. The statute indicates how broad and powerful the corporation is in terms of importing everything, including petroleum. Section 3(3) of the bill reads as follows:

The corporation is for all its purposes an agent of Her Majesty and its powers may be exercised only as an agent of Her Majesty.

That is not for any commercial purpose but as an agent of Her Majesty. The board of directors is appointed by the