

filed some 135 amendments, many of them duplicates, as provided for by the rules. The Chair reduced this number to 49 possible amendments for a vote, but realistically 35 votes.

In the interest of sanity with regard to voting, it was agreed that an effort would be made to concentrate votes on the more important amendments. As a result, last night we had 12 votes. The House does not often vote that long but 12 votes plus a number of verbal votes in just over two hours is a pretty good record. If hon. members feel they were abused in any way last night, I would remind them that when the Income Tax Act was amended in 1970 we voted from eight o'clock in the evening until 2.30 in the morning in order to get through a much more voluminous act. Those things happen from time to time.

Having finished that anecdotal background I want to reiterate that we are today in the closing stages of a black chapter as far as discussion of very important matters is concerned. The government had no business introducing closure under Standing Order 75C as it did. We had only discussed the report stage in a general way for two ordinary days and one short day. Now we are coming down to discussing individual amendments. Somehow somebody, maybe the government House leader—in his usual precipitate way he likes to see debates of one day for any and all bills, with one speaker from each party; that has been his predilection from the time he landed in this House—but somebody panicked over there. We would have made essentially the same type of progress but with an opportunity to discuss a matter which is before the courts this week, that is the legality of the petroleum and gas revenue tax and whether it is a direct infringement upon provincially-owned property. We would have been able to explore in much greater detail the implications of the 30 cents a thousand cubic feet excise tax on natural gas, including export gas.

The government does not get away with the sham of saying: "Oh, no, we are not putting on an export tax on natural gas". They put it on for everybody. And for those unreconstructed Liberals and undeluded Canadians bemused and befuddled by the government's programs during the 1980 election, with their so-called Canadian price and attacks on the 18-cent excise tax proposed by the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) when he was minister of finance, that tax did not apply to home heating fuel, including natural gas. There was a refundable portion for farmers.

We have heard the tripe which has come forward from the government benches in that regard. Deliberate misrepresentation, Mr. Speaker, in and out of this House. The refunds due to fishermen: again, misrepresentation in and out of this House. There was the total refusal to refer to the rebate for lower income families, including all those senior citizens who moaned on television: "Oh, I will not be able to go and see my children or grandchildren any more". Nonsense! This bill imposes a tax of 30 cents a thousand cubic feet on natural gas, an 8 per cent tax on revenues from both petroleum and natural gas, and the indexing of a tax on liquor, wine, beer and

Excise Tax

tobacco which is a self-generating snowball that shows the government's vested interest in increasing inflation.

That is the record and the policy of this government with regard to the public and petroleum prices. Not only has there been an increase in the cost of a gallon of gasoline of 60 cents in a very short time, far in excess of what had been proposed—

Mr. Kelly: Wrong, wrong.

Mr. Lambert: —but more increases are coming.

Mr. Kelly: You are wrong.

Mr. Lambert: The hon. member for Willowdale (Mr. Peterson), who is not in his seat, is hollering.

An hon. Member: That is Scarborough Centre (Mr. Kelly).

Mr. Lambert: On the prices we are totally right. They are far in excess of what anyone ever anticipated and are the result of the excesses of this government.

We have a so-called Canadianization contribution of \$1 a barrel to change Petrofina to Petro-Canada. Now we see who is going to line their pockets and who have lined their pockets with this deal, which has not produced one additional barrel of petroleum for Canada. This has caused tremendous equity losses by Canadian oil companies and the Canadian oil industry at large. The neophytes and the socialistic bureaucrats in Ottawa are behind the program on the grab on funds. They have an absolute desire and passion to control the petroleum industry and resources of Canada, notwithstanding the fact that aside from the expropriation of the Canada lands, the federal government does not have one iota of interest in those natural resources.

● (1220)

We are being asked, without any debate yesterday, about the petroleum and gas revenue tax and how it will affect the development of the Canadian industry. It is a straightforward revenue grab. If we look at the amount of money which has fallen into the federal coffers since December, 1979, if we look at the percentage of every dollar obtained from the price of a barrel of Canadian crude and from an equivalent measure of natural gas, we will see who has benefited from the increases in prices. It is not the petroleum companies; it is not the producing provinces. It is the Government of Canada that has discovered a herd of well-producing milk cows to which it wants to attach every teat and every grip it can to cover its ineptitudes in other programs, such as the idiotic continuation of depending upon foreign oil and paying subsidies of billions of dollars per year, which will increase.

There is stabilization now because the price has not risen, but the government is paying for junk from Mexico. Canadian refineries are refusing to accept it. I am not able to describe it because it is not polite to use such language in the House. It is being sloughed off on the Canadian government. It is the same situation as in 1973 when the former minister of supply and services, Mr. Goyer, paid \$33 for some spot oil in some panic