

Summer Recess

It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until 8 p.m. this day.

At 6.03 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS**MOTION RESPECTING SUMMER RECESS**

The House resumed consideration of the amended motion of Mr. Pinard:

That, when the House adjourns on the day that this order is adopted, it shall stand adjourned until October 15, 1980, provided that at any time prior to that date, if it appears to the satisfaction of Madam Speaker after consultation with the government, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time, Madam Speaker may give notice that she is so satisfied, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice, and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time; and

That, in the event of Madam Speaker's being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairman of Committees or the Assistant Deputy Chairman of Committees shall act in her stead for all the purposes of this order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: When the debate on the motion was interrupted at five o'clock, the hon. member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn) had the floor.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Mr. Speaker, now that we have had the opportunity of dining, the NDP will go up to the dining room to get a few more members into the House to make sure that they have ten here so that any motion which might be contrary to their interests of having a full meal can be overcome.

I want to carry on my remarks. Before the adjournment for the dinner hour, I had the opportunity to consider the position vis-à-vis the record of this government on energy matters as a whole, about which we should be concerned.

I am glad the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) is here to listen to this because rarely does he have an opportunity of hearing good, simple, common sense. He should stay in the House more regularly where he will have the opportunity to hear these contributions. Then he would not be in the position to delay and waste the time of the House as he now does.

Before the dinner adjournment, I stated that it was a rather abysmal record with respect to this government in terms of energy policy. We have had virtually no initiatives at all respecting our energy policy, and no legislation. None of the

initiatives mentioned in the Speech from the Throne have been brought forward.

It is amazing that we now have a situation where, as the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) so often puts it, the natural allies of the government, the New Democrats, are making a big ruckus so that it will appear they have a main difference in terms of policy. We know that the Liberal government, for all intents and purposes, over the course of the administration of this Prime Minister, has been kept in office by the very same NDP. Therefore, it ill behooves them to stand up now and pretend they are speaking on behalf of the interests of Canadians when they themselves kept the Liberals in power over the past 12 years by constantly voting, particularly in minority situations, to keep them in power. The people of Canada will reflect on this during the adjournment debate. It will allow them to think about whether there is a trace, or a touch, of hypocrisy in what the NDP are doing in terms of this debate.

What concerns me is that this very government, supported by the NDP, has made no progress at all in terms of energy policy. What is even more distressing and disturbing is the fact that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde), in terms of our energy policy and domestic oil pricing, left the whole issue until a couple of weeks or months before the expiration of existing arrangements in Canada. In fact, we have now passed the expiration date on June 30 and are faced with an extension, which has been agreed to by the producing provinces and the federal government, until the end of July.

One would have expected all sorts of activity during the month of July in which negotiations on a new arrangement would have been carried on, but no, we are going to adjourn this House. The meeting of the Prime Minister and Mr. Lougheed will not take place until July 24, a mere six days before the conclusion of the extension period. Many people in Canada do not fully understand the implications of the federal government and the producing provinces not arriving at an agreement. There are certain central issues preoccupying the government in terms of this negotiation.

The central issue, in my view, is the whole question of revenue sharing and the recycling of funds that has been and will continue to flow to the producing provinces. They like to concentrate their attention on the province of Alberta because it is by far the largest producer of oil in this country. We have to look at what is going on in this negotiation.

From my reading of the situation and observing it, unfortunately from the sidelines now, the parties are very far apart in terms of an agreement. The federal government is trying to achieve some process by which there will be a bigger take on the part of the federal government with regard to revenues on oil. There are some suggestions that that is what the federal government is trying to do in this connection. They are talking about a number of prospects through their blended oil price, blending some combination of old and new oil. Through this processing, the Oil Import Compensation Act, to equalize the cost of imported fuel, will continually be reduced through some sort of charge to the refineries. This is something the