

S.O. 26

PRIVILEGE

MR. MACKASEY—S.O. 43 MOTION OF MR. TOWERS

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Lincoln): Madam Speaker, some may think that this is not a very serious point of privilege, but it is serious in many respects. Yesterday the hon. member who might be called the poet laureate of the House of Commons advanced a proposal in which he stated that I seconded his motion. That could give the impression to anyone who reads *Hansard* that I was present in the House of Commons yesterday. I was many, many miles away.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Since this took place yesterday, the hon. member would need to give me notice of his question of privilege. I do not believe there is substance to his question of privilege; I can tell him forthwith that he does not have one. Unless the question of privilege flows from the deliberations of today, I cannot hear it today.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

[English]

NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

CANCELLATION OF PROPOSED ALSANDS MEGAPROJECT

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I rise to ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields), to move the adjournment of the House under the provisions of Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the cancellation of the Alsands megaproject and the further delay of the Alaska Highway natural gas pipeline.

Canada has been relying on the prospect of energy megaprojects to guarantee energy self-sufficiency, to give employment to almost 100,000 Canadians, and to stimulate the economy in both the resource and industrial sectors. On Friday, April 30, it was announced that the Alsands megaproject has finally collapsed and that the Alaska Highway natural gas pipeline has been postponed for at least two years.

[Translation]

This monumental and unprecedented catastrophe for the Canadian economy is a direct consequence of the National Energy Program. The government has been unable to provide any reasonable explanation for the collapse of these projects nor has it been able to give us any real hope of resurrecting or replacing them. It is therefore a matter of national interest that the House should hold an emergency debate on this economic catastrophe, on its immediate and long-term impact on the Canadian economy, and consider any solutions for putting these projects back on stream.

[English]

If you accept this application for an emergency debate, I am ready to move the appropriate motion.

Mr. Waddell: On a point of order, Madam Speaker, when I raised exactly this matter with you yesterday, the member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) opposed me. I want to put it on the record that we are prepared to have this debate but the Conservatives should get their act together.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: That is not really a point of order; it is debate on the motion proposed by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark).

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, I think I have a question of privilege now because of the misleading statement that was made by the member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell). He said that the motion which the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) proposes to move is exactly the same as his was. Had he been listening, which he usually does not, he would have realized it is not exactly the same. What is more, if he and the other members of his party were not so hypocritical and posturing all the time—

Madam Speaker: Order, order. Hon. members are obviously debating. The Chair is prepared to deal with the matter which was raised by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

What I have to say now does deal with what has been brought up by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell). The House will recall that yesterday he proposed to discuss a related matter under the terms of this same Standing Order. Having had the benefit of hearing both those presentations, I have come to the conclusion that the application now before the House is more specific and also of a different character, in the sense that something has taken place that members are asking to have discussed. The matter brought forward by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition would offer the possibility of a wider debate. It appears to the Chair that the matter raised by the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition is in the nature of a situation contemplated by the provisions of Standing Order 26, and therefore I am prepared to accept this proposal for debate.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1510)

Madam Speaker: It is now my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 26(8), to ask if the right hon. member has the leave of the House to move the motion. Has the right hon. member leave to discuss the proposed motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Madam Speaker: Accordingly, leave having been granted, the motion shall stand over until eight o'clock this evening.

Mr. Pinard: The hon. member sought consent, and we certainly think that it is a major subject. We do not object