

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Is it the wish of the House that the Chair call it one o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak this afternoon on a subject as serious as the one before us, it is not my intention to engage in reproaches and recriminations in connection with procedural matters. I say this at the outset, because wherever I have gone in the last few years, young people, young men and women everywhere, are concerned about the dangers of pollution, whether pollution of our waters, of our land or of the air. Then, too, there is noise pollution to be considered. As I say, young men and women everywhere are concerned about this issue and they want us to be concerned, too. Sometimes these young people have hang-ups. They take tough positions and act with some degree of violence in an attempt to get us to do the job we should be doing here in the House of Commons.

Before I get into the meat of my address, I should like to refer specifically to the motion before us. This is the motion moved by the hon. member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Pringle)—he was originally an Albertan and this, of course, does a little for his character and his calibre:

An hon. Member: Explain.

Mr. Woolliams: The motion reads:

That in the light of the damage in Canada and the United States arising from the recent oil spill at the Cherry Point refinery, this House support the urgency of the reference to the International Joint Commission of the environmental consequences of the movement of oil in the narrow waters of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, George Strait, and Puget Sound both now and in the future and of the measures necessary to minimize the hazards, and requests the Secretary of State for External Affairs to immediately convey the terms of this motion to the Government of the United States.

Then, there was an amendment proposed by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), which I had the pleasure of seconding. It read as follows:

That the motion be amended by adding at the end thereof:

"and that the International Joint Commission have a mandate to utilize and requisition such financial and other resources of Canada and the United States as will best and soonest restore the ecology and environment on the West Coast to pre-spill conditions".

Once again, we have seen evidence of the serious consequences of an oil spill in waters near the Canadian coast. It seems to me that the young people have put their finger on one of the great dangers facing mankind. I agree with the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) when he says that man, having invented and developed nuclear weap-

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ons of all kinds, is now in a position, by pressing buttons, to destroy his own species. However, I agree also with this young generation which has reminded us so forcefully that if we do nothing to control pollution, for example, pollution of the sea itself, so rich in resources of every kind, we shall face a danger equally great. We shall, in fact, be sounding the death knell of humanity on this earth. If I might be personal at this point, may I say this is one of the concerns of my son, Brian Woolliams, 16 years of age, who often discusses it with me and other members of the family. He, and others like him, are deeply concerned. We must all be concerned about this issue.

I listened today with great interest to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp). He said the government was looking into the situation. I hope they will not continue to "look into it" much longer. In 1968 they were given a mandate. We want doers, not lookers. It is time for action rather than words and inertia. This is why we have been asking questions continually over a period of years. We want to come to grips with this subject. We have been exploring for oil and gas in Canada's north for 15 to 20 years, and we know from reports from the United States and Canada that vast discoveries of crude petroleum and natural gas have been made in the Arctic. We have known for some time that in this modern world, with its automation, there is a great demand for energy in every country, including the United States, Canada, Britain and France.

• (1410)

I do not intend to present any recriminations today because this is too serious a subject to become involved in procedure. This is probably the most serious subject I have ever discussed in the House of Commons, and I refer to pollution. We had our procedural wrangle yesterday. It is not now time for another such discussion. It is not time for the government to play tricks, it is time for serious thinking.

Let me now come to grips with the subject I wish to discuss this afternoon. We know there have been discoveries of crude petroleum and natural gas in Alaska and in Canada's north. We know that the United States, with its industrial might, will demand and will get this potential energy. This government has known since it came into power in 1968 about these discoveries in the north, and must have realized that this energy would have to be moved through some media, by pipeline, tanker, airplane or train. This government has known for a considerable length of time of vast crude petroleum discoveries in Alaska and that it was necessary to move that oil from Prudhoe Bay to Anchorage or Valdez. The United States has had this problem on the tracing board for some time. Perhaps I should explain what I mean by that expression in view of the fact that when I used it this week the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said he did not know of the board to which I was referring. This is a term used by engineers. They put their ideas on paper and then transfer them into plans for pipelines, and building of roads and so on.

I am glad to see that the right hon. gentleman, the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) is here, because it was his government that gave us the great vision of the north. His government started that great development now taking place in the north. Many people