

**Mr. Whelan:** For a complete five cents a quart roll back.

**Mr. Speaker:** I see there are two members seeking to ask supplementary questions, but we have reached the end of the question period. I wonder if the Chair might recognize those hon. members and others seeking to ask supplementary questions tomorrow, knowing of their interest in this subject.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

### ENERGY SUPPLIES EMERGENCY ACT

MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR ALLOCATION BOARD,  
MANDATORY ALLOCATION OF SUPPLIES AND RATIONING  
OF CONTROLLED PRODUCTS

The House resumed, from Wednesday, December 5, consideration of the motion of Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale) that Bill C-236, to provide a means to conserve the supplies of petroleum products 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 and to amend the National Energy Board Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Last evening, Mr. Speaker, when I was speaking on the bill before us I indicated I felt the government had acted largely on the advice of a technical advisory committee, and that is confirmed by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald). I also indicated it was particularly pertinent that members of this House should inquire into who actually sat on that advisory committee, what meetings were held, what form of report did the committee make to the minister and, most important, what was the basis of the committee's judgment which led to the recommendation to the minister.

It is particularly interesting that we have been unable to date to get the minister or the government to reveal who, in fact, sits on this technical advisory committee. Attempts were made in this House and at the Miscellaneous Estimates Committee to determine exactly who are the members, by name, from industry and from governmental departments. To date, we have not succeeded in having a candid disclosure in this regard.

I would go even further, because I think it is important to note on the record, that I believe there has been a misrepresentation concerning the membership of that committee. I should like to refer to the reports of that committee on Monday, December 3. As reported at page 57:29, I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp):

I understand that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has established, with industry, the Technical Advisory Committee on Petroleum Supply. Are you familiar with this committee?

The minister replied:

Yes, I am.

### *Energy Supplies Emergency Act*

I then asked:

That Minister has also informed us that you have a representative on the Committee. Is that correct?

The minister then replied:

That is right.

I then asked:

Who is the representative, Mr. Minister?

The minister then said:

Mr. Ritchie, nominally, is the member. If he cannot attend, then another official of the department replaces him.

I asked:

Who would that other official be?

The answer was given by Mr. Ritchie, who also attended the Miscellaneous Estimates Committee meeting. He said:

It could be Don McPhail, the Director-General of the Economic Bureau.

Subsequently at that Miscellaneous Estimates committee meeting I asked Mr. Ritchie how many meetings of the technical committee he had attended and he initially indicated two or three. Then, on further questioning he finally said he had not attended any of the meetings of the technical committee. I feel it is pertinent to draw this to the attention of the House, particularly when we remember that the day after the Miscellaneous Estimates Committee meeting, on December 4, the Secretary of State for External Affairs was asked similar questions in the House by the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). The Secretary of State referred the question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who at page 8385 of *Hansard* said in part:

—I am afraid I cannot say who the individuals were at the moment. However, representatives of various departments have been designated.

The Leader of the Opposition persisted and, as recorded on the same page, asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs:

—will he tell us who this individual is.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs finally replied:

—I do not know who it is who has been designated for this purpose.

Surely, it is very strange that within 24 hours the minister should be able to reverse himself so dramatically on a simple question as to who has been appointed to a committee, bearing in mind that this committee has tremendous importance as far as our debate today is concerned.

**Mr. Baker:** Reversal is not unusual for this government.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** How would you know, Wally? You see everything upside down.

**Mr. Baker:** I am looking at you all the time, perhaps that is the reason.

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, I indicated yesterday that I felt this government had put Canada in an extremely unfavourable position as far as the private international oil companies in the world are concerned, and that I felt it