

I shall not read it at the moment, indicating the feasibility of taking the pipe line through the Cariboo to Vancouver.

I should like to draw to the attention of the members the fact that we are dealing with possibly the last great pool of oil on the North American continent. When I read the newspapers, I sometimes feel that we are developing it rather irresponsibly, like a bunch of drunken sailors. I am glad to note that the government of the province of Alberta has taken steps to conserve the supply of gas and oil. I sincerely hope that the provincial government will do what the government at Ottawa is obviously failing to do, and that is to conserve our natural resources for future generations. The irreplaceable nature of these resources should be appreciated. There is nothing more desolate than a worked-out area, whether it be oil, timber, or anything else. The area becomes a bunch of derelict homes, empty schools, and empty stores. There is a movement of people away from the area.

We have not taken a great deal of interest in the conservation of our natural resources. I thank the province of Alberta for having filled the gap with proper conservation measures. The resources of that province can be responsible for a high degree of prosperity for over a hundred years to come; but, at the present rate of consumption, I doubt if they will last more than 30 to 50 years. It is true that great wealth can be accumulated, and great use can be made of these natural resources before they peter out. Those of you who remember what happened in the Turner valley and in California, where the natural resources were exploited without any conservation measures, will look with dread at the indifference of our government in allowing the products of our wells to be siphoned off to the United States.

It being nine o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I should like to move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

Mr. Speaker: The hour reserved for private and public bills having expired, the house will resume the business that was interrupted at six o'clock.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

QUESTION AS TO MOTION FOR COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. Alphonse Fournier (Minister of Public Works): Before resuming the business which was interrupted by the six o'clock recess, Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a suggestion to the house, which is less contentious than the subject we have been discussing for the last hour. Last night, when I announced the

business of the house for today, I mentioned that some time during the day we would move to go into supply to call two departments, transport and finance. I gave as my reason for doing so that on Friday many members had asked for a discussion under the first item of the Department of Transport. At that time, we thought we would try to meet the wishes of those members. The other reason is, if we carry the motion to refer the estimates of external affairs to the committee on external affairs there will be only two departments left that we can discuss on Friday, and I am not too sure that I could have the two interested ministers here on that date. Therefore, what I would wish to ask the house right now is to move to go into supply and to call these two departments. Necessarily, if there were discussion on the motion I would withdraw it immediately, because I would not even think of carrying it through. We would rather continue with external affairs.

If we cannot move tonight, and this is the last day this week that we can move to go into supply formally, the position will be that I do not know exactly what estimates we can take up. If it were the unanimous consent of the house to adopt this motion I would ask the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) whether he would adjourn the debate on the motion to refer the estimates of external affairs to the committee on external affairs.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, no matter how much anyone might wish to accommodate those who desire to follow a particular course, there is a debate before the house at the moment, and it can only be disposed of by a motion to adjourn. No one is in a position to state what will happen in regard to another debate when we have not even disposed of the debate that is now before us.

I would suggest that there is only one course that can be adopted, namely, for the decision to be made as to which course is to be followed and the motion made appropriately.

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Mr. Speaker, just to explain, I have mentioned that the hon. member for Temiscouata has assured me that he would be ready to move the adjournment of the debate on this motion of the Secretary of State for External Affairs; but I would not request that unless I had the assurance that there would be no debate on the motion to go into supply. I have the assurance of certain groups that they will not discuss this motion. I know that if the leader of the opposition would just throw a kindly word to his supporters I would have no difficulty in that direction.