

● (4:40 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: I declare the amendment lost. Is the house ready for the question on the main motion?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the motion carry?

Some hon. Members: On division.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts.

Oil and Gas Production and Conservation

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

● (4:50 p.m.)

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that somebody, either the minister or one of his colleagues, would be making a statement on the bill. I gathered that the Minister without Portfolio would do so.

Mr. Baldwin: There must be someone to apologize for it.

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to make a statement in this debate in my capacity as Acting Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. We have before us Bill S-29, an act respecting the production and conservation of oil and gas in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. The proposed act may be cited as the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act. It was passed by the other house on March 20 of this year.

The basic purpose of this proposed legislation is to provide statutory authority for the control and safety of oil and gas operations, and for the prevention of waste of the oil and gas resources within the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

The presentation of the bill to the house for second reading is especially timely as today more than ever before the eyes of the Canadian petroleum industry, and indeed of the international petroleum industry, are on the latent oil and gas resources of Canada's north.

The vast belt of sedimentary rocks which extends northward from the petroliferous sedimentary basin of the four western provinces, down the 1,000 mile length of the Mackenzie River Valley into the Beaufort Sea, and thence eastward through Canada's Arctic islands and under its marine channels almost to Greenland, has long been regarded as highly prospective for oil and gas. However, the industry's interest in these great prospects has been limited because of their isolation from the markets for crude oil and gas, and the attendant high cost of transportation, as well as by the difficulties to exploration and development posed by a rather harsh northern environment.

In recent years, as the demand for oil and gas has increased, on this continent particularly, the search for reserve supplies has

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the house that the question to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment is as follows: the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose)—Post Office Department—Vancouver—permanent employees to replace those having casual status.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

MEASURE ESTABLISHING OIL AND GAS COMMITTEE, AND REGULATING POWERS OF GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL

Hon. Robert K. Andras (for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development) moved that Bill S-29, respecting the production and conservation of oil and gas in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise on a point of order. I think there might be general agreement in the house to refer this bill after second reading to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development rather than to the standing committee indicated in the motion. If the house is generally agreeable to that suggestion, perhaps an order should be made to that effect.