

imprisonment of civilian political prisoners and for the return of such prisoners to their own homes as soon as possible.—*Mr. Brewin.*

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to say just a word on this motion which stands in my name.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order or with the intention of moving the motion, because there are two motions now before the House and we should not have a debate on both, even if it is one word.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I am rising on a point of order. I want to say that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) informed the House, as indeed he informed me earlier today, that he proposes within a few days to make a statement on the subject matter of the motion. In these circumstances, I do not think it would be appropriate to proceed with the debate on this subject and I am, therefore, asking that the motion be withdrawn, subject to our right to re-introduce the motion later if circumstances warrant.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I should like to suggest to hon. members that we will get ourselves into difficulty if every time there is an opposition day or supply motion, when a number of motions are listed, if hon. members rise on points of order to state reasons for not proceeding with their motion. This would lead to abuses I suggest. This is not applicable in this particular case, but this practice could lead to difficulty. In any event, the hon. member has asked leave to withdraw the motion, and I shall inquire whether this is the wish of the House.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is withdrawn. We will, therefore, proceed to the motion in the name of the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas) and it will be put to this House.

Motion withdrawn and order discharged.

ALLOTTED S.O. 58—SUGGESTED IMPOSITION OF CONTROLS ON PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands) moved:

That this House views with concern recent increases in the prices of crude oil, gasoline and other refined products as well as the increasing quantities of gasoline being exported from Canada and therefore calls upon the government to take immediate steps to implement the following measures:

(a) Place export controls on the export of gasoline and other refined petroleum products;

(b) Establish a two-price system for gas and oil with the export price reflecting the price in export markets and the domestic price significantly lower;

(c) Remove the Ottawa Valley line and permit offshore oil and domestic crude to move freely in the interests of price competition.

He said: Mr. Speaker, we hear a great deal these days about the world energy crisis. I think one should recall that there is really a long-term aspect and a short-term aspect to the energy crisis. Time does not permit that we discuss the long-term aspect of this problem, but I do wish

Petroleum Products Controls

to deal very briefly with the problem of the short-term aspect of the energy crisis. I would begin by reminding the House that there is no shortage of oil in Canada for our needs in the immediate future, nor is there any shortage of world supplies for the next few years. What we are facing at the present time is a situation in which the United States is running short of natural gas and crude oil. The result is that the United States is becoming increasingly dependent on supplies from outside its own borders. It cannot get sufficient supplies from Canada or from Venezuela, and consequently is more and more dependent upon securing crude oil from the Middle East.

Two things are happening today that are causing the United States great concern. The first is that the Middle East, very naturally, is very conscious of the situation and is raising its price. Second, of course, there is the political problem in that much of the oil is in the hands of pro-Arab countries and there is some tendency to bring pressure to bear on the pro-Israeli countries through the sale of oil. Consequently, the United States today is frantically trying to buy sufficient quantities of oil to meet its needs. It is paying higher prices and is seeking to obtain oil and gasoline wherever it can. This is having an effect on their balance of payments. It is stoking the fires of inflation in the United States, and is having some very serious effect with regard to our position as an oil-producing country.

The purpose of my motion is to point out that, in my opinion, the government has a two-fold responsibility. The first is to see that the shortage of oil in the United States does not result in Canada having insufficient supplies to meet its own needs. The second responsibility the government has is to see that the higher prices in the United States do not result in Canadians having to pay more for their oil than is justified, particularly when we remember it is oil which belongs to the people of Canada.

In this motion I have, therefore, suggested, first, that the government should extend the present export controls on oil to cover gasoline and other refined products. The minister, both on May 17 and again last Friday, May 25, expressed the opinion that there is no sign of any shortage of gasoline and other refined products. I hope he is right. But I also remember that last January 9, when I raised the danger of a shortage of crude oil in this country, the minister was quite sanguine about the situation. However, by February 15, the minister, through the National Energy Board, found it necessary to apply export restrictions on crude oil because there was no guarantee by any of the big oil companies that they could supply sufficient oil to meet Canadian needs for the months of March, April and beyond. As a matter of fact, since the minister applied these restrictions his action has been fully justified by the fact that the applications for permits to export crude oil for the month of May were for 200,000 barrels per day more than the National Energy Board was prepared to approve and for the month of June they were for 320,000 barrels more than the National Energy Board was prepared to approve.

Further, the justification for imposing export controls on crude oil has been fully vindicated, and I am now suggesting to the House the time has come to apply the same provisions to the export of gasoline. I do that because the figures alarm me. As I put them on *Hansard* Friday, in