

Taxation

[Translation]

Mr. Bussières: Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources would be in a far better position than I am to answer the hon. member with regard to the heavy crude upgrading plant. Unfortunately, I do not have the information requested and I would suggest that he put his question, which by far extends beyond the scope of this tax, to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

[English]

Mr. Hargrave: Mr. Chairman, how about the natural gas servicing industry?

[Translation]

Mr. Bussières: About the natural gas servicing industry, I must admit to the hon. member that that proposal is not now under consideration.

[English]

Mr. Thomson: Mr. Chairman, as agreed with the Minister of State for Finance, we are prepared to accept Clauses 1 through 6 and 8 through 33 on division. Perhaps the minister would care to make his motion amending Clause 7. The hon. member for Calgary Centre has had to be absent from the House today and is the only one who is aware of the precise details, but I can accept the amendment that has been made in principle. However, I would ask the minister to be good enough to confirm that he has conveyed the precise amounts that are contained in the amendment to the hon. member for Calgary Centre when he moves his motion to amend Clause 7.

[Translation]

Mr. Bussières: Mr. Chairman, I can confirm to the hon. member that I have had the opportunity of giving the hon. member for Calgary Centre a copy of the amendment as worded here. He confirmed to me by telephone last week that he agreed with the terms of the amendment I intend to move. When you so advise me, I shall be ready to move it.

[English]

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the New Democratic Party, I am prepared to give our unanimous consent. As I understand it, and I want to put this on the record, the original bill had a high ceiling on the taxes that are mentioned in this amendment. It meant the government would not have to come back to Parliament, perhaps never, to get those taxes changed. The opposition did not like that. The opposition wanted the government to be more accountable to Parliament, especially in tax matters. The government said it had to be flexible. The government has made somewhat of a compromise now, and I think we can accept that. The government has said that it will phase in the taxes to give it some room to manoeuvre. It means that if the government wants to bring in a dramatic increase in taxes, it would have to come back to Parliament and we would have some accountability.

In any event, we welcome the amendment. It would be better if the government withdrew the act, but I am prepared on behalf of the New Democratic Party to give our consent to the amendment.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Shall Clauses 1 through 6 inclusive carry?

Some hon. Members: On division.

Clauses 1 to 6 inclusive agreed to.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: The Chair will stand Clause 7 for a moment.

Shall Clauses 8 through 15 carry?

Some hon. Members: On division.

Clauses 8 to 15 inclusive agreed to.

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Shall Clauses 16 to 33 inclusive carry?

Some hon. Members: On division.

Clauses 16 to 33 inclusive agreed to.

On Clause 7—

Mr. Bussières moved:

That subclause 7(2) of Bill C-112 be amended by striking out lines 18 to 37 on page 7 and substituting the following:

"(d) prescribing, for the purposes of paragraph 25.13(5)(d), a rate of tax, not exceeding

(i) one dollar per gigajoule in 1982 and 1983

(ii) two dollars per gigajoule in 1984, and

(iii) three dollars per gigajoule in 1985 and thereafter,

and the date on which the rate becomes applicable;

(e) prescribing, for the purposes of subparagraph 25.14(4)(a)(iv), a rate of tax, not exceeding

(i) nineteen dollars per cubic metre in 1982 and 1983,

(ii) thirty-eight dollars per cubic metre in 1984, and

(iii) fifty-six dollars per cubic metre in 1985 and thereafter,

and the date on which the rate becomes applicable;

(f) prescribing, for the purposes of subparagraph 25.14(4)(b)(iv), a rate of tax, not exceeding

(i) twenty-seven dollars per cubic metre in 1982 and 1983,

(ii) fifty-three dollars per cubic metre in 1984, and

(iii) Seventy-nine dollars per cubic metre in 1985 and thereafter,

and the date on which the rate becomes applicable; and

(g) prescribing, for the purposes of subparagraph 25.14(4)(c)(iv), a rate of tax, not exceeding

(i) twenty-nine dollars per cubic metre in 1982 and 1983,

(ii) fifty-eight dollars per cubic metre in 1984, and

(iii) eighty-six dollars per cubic metre in 1985 and thereafter,

and the date on which the rate becomes applicable."

The Assistant Deputy Chairman: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: On division.

Amendment (Mr. Bussières) agreed to.

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.