

long-term, harmful effects of the prolonged use of marijuana, especially such use by young people. In light of these warnings, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen):

That this House urge the government to divert some of its huge and proposed advertising budget toward a sustained, intensive education program designed to alert Canadians to the potential hazards of marijuana use.

Madam Speaker: For presentation, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

● (1115)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

PETRO-CANADA

HIBERNIA PROJECT—REPORTED STATEMENT BY CHEVRON OFFICIAL

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Earlier this week an official from Chevron, one of the key operators in the Hibernia project off the coast of Newfoundland, stated that the Hibernia project, under the present terms of the National Energy Program, is not economic. Since Petro-Canada is a participant in this project, would the minister advise the House of Commons whether he has sought the advice of PetroCan on this matter and, if so, does it agree with the conclusions reached by Chevron on this matter?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I am sure that the hon. member would not want to misquote Chevron officials. What Chevron has said, if I remember correctly, was something to the effect that they would not be in a position to decide on the production of Hibernia unless they were assured as to the price they would be able to get for that production. There is nothing in the National Energy Program that provides any specific price for the oil that will be produced offshore. We said there would be consideration given to a special reference price, but that price has not been determined as yet and Chevron indicated that they would want to know what price they can expect for their production before they can start it. I find this a very reasonable and understandable position to adopt and I have no quarrel with it.

There is nothing in the National Energy Program that is at variation with this particular concern which they have expressed, and there is nothing in the NEP that prevents Chevron from proceeding with the Hibernia exploration and development. What they need and will require to know is what price they will get. That is what we will be negotiating during the next while.

Oral Questions

Mr. Wilson: A supplementary question, Madam Speaker. The minister did not answer the question I put to him, which was whether he has discussed this matter with Petro-Canada. On Wednesday I asked the minister whether he had discussed the matter of the cancellation of the Syncrude expansion with Petro-Canada, and at that time he said he had not. We are talking here about two very important elements in the future supply of oil for Canada.

My question to the minister is, what is the role of Petro-Canada as a window to the industry? How is the minister utilizing that role of Petro-Canada in coming to conclusions as to how the National Energy Program should be implemented, particularly on this very important question of price for off-shore oil?

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, the hon. member referred to Syncrude. I indicated at the time that I had not discussed this particular aspect with the president of Petro-Canada. I am sure that since that time the hon. member has read the statement made by Petro-Canada that it disagrees with the decision taken by the other partners in the case of Syncrude. I think it is a pretty good indication of the sense of national interest by a national company, compared to that of private companies in this particular field.

As far as Hibernia itself is concerned, I have not had discussions yet with Petro-Canada as to what specific price would be required to bring Hibernia into production, except discussions of a very general nature a few months ago. I think first of all we have not had conclusive evidence yet that there will be the possibility of commercial production in Hibernia, although we are quite confident that this will indeed be a very good discovery.

As to the exact price that will be required for the oil, we will have to wait a while and have further discussions with all parties concerned. Petro-Canada will obviously be consulted in that respect. At the present time, however, it is premature to arrive at a specific price proposal. This is a matter that will be negotiated over the next few months. I must remind the hon. member that we are still a few years down the line before we have production out of Hibernia.

Mr. Wilson: Madam Speaker, surely the minister knows that before any decision is taken on production and future exploration we must have a better idea of price.

● (1120)

Supplementary to the answers which the minister has given, has Petro-Canada updated its financial projections for 1981 and for future years to reflect the impact of the National Energy Program on its exploration, development and production activities in western Canada? If so, would the minister advise the House as to the conclusions reached? Many private sector companies have done this and we are seeing large drops in cash flows proposed by these companies as a result of the National Energy Program. What is the position of Petro-Canada in the same area?