

Iran. However, we will want to take all outstanding questions into account as we move to remove economic sanctions.

● (2050)

THE CONSTITUTION

ONTARIO—BILINGUALISM

Hon. L. Norbert Thériault: Honourable senators, I do not want to re-raise the storm that blew over this place last Thursday when I asked a certain question of the Leader of the Government in the Senate, but at that time I was convinced that the Leader of the Opposition had quoted me wrongly, and I asked him to look at the record.

Honourable senators, with your permission I would like to read the last paragraph of a statement made by the Leader of the Government, and I quote:

Here is the opposition, which in recent weeks has interminably been stating that provincial rights are not being taken into account, that there is an attempt by the national government to circumvent the legitimate rights of provincial governments, today asking, 'Why doesn't the national government impose this on the Province of Ontario?'

Then the Leader of the Opposition, as reported at page 1524 of *Hansard*, intervened with the remark:

Senator Thériault said that. Stop distorting everything.

Honourable senators, my point is that I never made such a statement, and when I am prepared to make a statement on whether I feel the Government of Canada should impose the provisions of section 133 on the Province of Ontario, I will make my position clear at the proper time.

At that time I was simply asking my leader to intercede with the Leader of the Opposition to see if some of his English-speaking colleagues—including one who has resided in New Brunswick for three years and knows the situation very well—would join with four members of Parliament from Quebec who were meeting with the Premier of Ontario to see if he would change his mind and ask the Government of Canada to have section 133 imposed in the amendments to the Constitution. I want to make this point clear, that the interjection by the Leader of the Opposition was as a result of a misunderstanding of what I had said.

Hon. Jacques Flynn (Leader of the Opposition): So what?

ENERGY

OIL SHORTAGES—PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to a question asked on November 12, 1980, by Senator Donahoe concerning oil shortages.

If Alberta proceeds with its intention to reduce supplies to eastern Canada, supplies would be decreased by 60,000 barrels a day commencing March 1 of this year. A further reduction

of 60,000 barrels a day would follow commencing June 1 with a further 60,000 barrels commencing September 1.

Should this unfortunate situation occur, there is, at present, crude oil available in the international market. The price at which international oil would be bought to replace the Alberta cutbacks is not known at this time. Naturally, price would depend on the pricing conditions at the time of the purchases.

CANADA OIL AND GAS LEGISLATION—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer to a question asked on December 10, 1980, by Senator Doody concerning the Canada Oil and Gas Act.

(The answer follows:)

I am informed by my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, that the contents of this bill were not discussed in detail with the provinces before it was introduced in the House of Commons. Honourable senators will understand that the integrity of the parliamentary process would have prohibited this action.

The provinces and industry, however, have understood for some time that the existing legislation governing oil and gas activity on Canada lands was outdated. The new Canada Oil and Gas Act has been in development during the past several years. Indeed, certain aspects of this proposed legislation have been discussed at length with industry and the provinces.

The act has, of course, evolved over time with the most recent changes being set out in the National Energy Program. Although details of the proposed legislation would not have been discussed with interested parties prior to introduction of the bill in the house, in accordance with legislative procedure, they will now have an opportunity to make known their views on specific provisions during the standing committee stage of consideration.

NOVA SCOTIA

OFFSHORE MINERAL RIGHTS—HISTORICAL FACTS—BRITISH COLUMBIA REFERENCE CASE—DOCUMENTS TABLED

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, on Thursday last, during the debate on Senator Smith's inquiry respecting some of the historical facts relevant to the claim of Nova Scotia to minerals off its shores, Senator Frith requested, and was granted, permission to have certain documents appended to that day's *Debates*. It has since been found that reproduction of those documents in legible form is, to say the least, most difficult.

With Senator Frith's agreement, and on his behalf, I ask leave to table these documents so that they will be available for examination by any senator who wishes to see them.

The Hon. the Speaker: It is agreed, honourable senators?