## **CONCEPT:** S<sub>N</sub>Ar ADDITION-ELIMINATION MECHANISM

Unlike EAS, where addition is initiated by the presence of a strong electrophile, addition-elimination can also be initiated by a *strong nucleophile* in the presence of a *good aryl leaving group*.

- Reaction has similarities to S<sub>N</sub><sup>2</sup> but it is not
- Known as Addition-Elimination Nucleophilic Aromatic Substitution, S<sub>N</sub>Ar or ipso-substitution.

An early method of preparing phenol called the **Dow Process** used chlorobenzene, NaOH and high heat to force S<sub>N</sub>Ar.

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## **CONCEPT:** THE MEISENHEIMER COMPLEX

The **Dow Process**, a typical S<sub>N</sub>Ar reaction, requires tons of heat and pressure to proceed forward.

- This is due to the instability of the anionic sigma-complex
- Withdrawing groups or Heteroatoms to the Ortho or Para positions (WHOP) stabilize the intermediate
  - ☐ A classical trinitrobenzene *Meisenheimer Complex* can proceed in *room temperature*

**EXAMPLE:** Use resonance structures to determine which of the following ipso-substitutions is more favored.

$$H_2N$$
 $CI$ 
 $K^+$  -OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>
 $350^{\circ}$  C

**EXAMPLE**: Which of the following compounds will most readily undergo nucleophilic aromatic substitution in the addition-elimination pathway?

$$\bigcap_{N}^{CI}$$
  $\bigcap_{N}^{N}$   $\bigcap_{$