

as was done by the Leader of the Opposition, to asking the Prime Minister whether the alleged statement represents government policy.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I did spend some time with the minister yesterday afternoon discussing this very question. I was sure he would say he did not make the statement which is attributed to him.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary which I shall direct to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Is it the position of the minister on behalf of the government that the government of Canada does not have any role with regard to the potential differences that exist over certain matters between the provinces of Alberta and Ontario?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, certainly the government of Canada does not have any role to get in the middle, as I was about to say, of any acrimony publicly between two premiers. However, we believe it would be desirable to have private consultation with the interested parties in this particular matter. I am looking forward to having such consultation to see whether we can bring together the consumer and producer interests involved in this matter and arrive at a mutually satisfactory settlement.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, is it the minister's position that any such differences should be settled before any general national conference or any general national consultation takes place with regard to energy policy?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** That certainly is the insistence of the premier of Alberta. It seems to me that the situation of future planning by the Trans-Canada Pipelines in particular will require that the outstanding issues be resolved at an early date. Therefore I think the timing of the matter does indicate that before we can have a general federal-provincial discussion and a full scale meeting for that purpose we will have to arrive at some agreement on the current and immediate issue.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Is it the minister's intention or the position of the government that the National Energy Board should have any role to play or have any jurisdiction with regard to the regulation of any such disputes in the future?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** The jurisdiction of the National Energy Board is set out under the statute. What is involved here is really a substantial change in the base price of gas which until now has not been a subject of the board's consideration. I think that the slightly longer term question is the kind of question that should be involved in the over-all energy discussions in due course.

26087—43½

### Oral Questions

#### COMMUNICATIONS

##### BELL CANADA RATE INCREASES—INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT DECISION ON TRANSPORT COMMISSION ORDER

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Communications. In view of the fact that Bell Canada tabled its proposed new tariffs with the Canadian Transport Commission a day or two ago and therefore time is of the essence with regard to any decision by the government, may I ask the minister whether the government has made a decision on the order of the Canadian Transport Commission and, if so, whether the minister intends to make any statement to parliament on the matter?

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, the government has taken a decision and I shall announce it to the House tomorrow morning in a statement on motions.

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[English]

#### ENERGY

##### NATURAL GAS—DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ALBERTA AND ONTARIO—COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MINISTER AND PREMIERS ON POSSIBLE PRIVATE MEETINGS

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary to the questions that were put to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources by my leader. Have you specifically been in touch with the premiers of Ontario and Alberta with respect to—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member should address his question to the Chair even if it is a supplementary. The Chair accepts even supplementary questions.

**Mr. Stevens:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the minister could answer my question whether he has in fact been in touch with either premier concerning his suggested private meetings.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, with the responsible ministers and in one case with the responsible parliamentary assistant.

##### NATURAL GAS—DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ALBERTA AND ONTARIO—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Would the minister consider making a statement to the House on motions stating, I hope clearly and concisely, what the federal government's position is, if it has one, with regard to the proposals made and the constitutional position taken by the two provinces?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I have pursued that in the