

### Oral Questions

I also refer the parliamentary secretary to questions Nos. 2598 to 2601 inclusive asking for details of public expenditures at both Harrington Lake and 24 Sussex Drive. These questions were placed on the order paper about three and a half months ago. It seems to me the government should no longer delay in making quite clear whether or not we have in Canada our very own Key Biscayne and San Clemente.

• (1440)

**Mr. Forrestall:** I very seldom do this, Mr. Speaker, but I rise on a similar point of order. I can understand the reluctance to answer some questions, but I wonder whether the question standing in my name, dated June 11, which has to do only with expenditures within the National Museum of Canada, could be answered before Christmas. Perhaps you could find out, Mr. Speaker.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### ENERGY

#### OIL—SUGGESTION THAT GOVERNMENT SEEK AGREEMENT WITH SASKATCHEWAN ON TAXATION BEFORE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

**Mr. Walter Baker (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. On Thursday, December 6, as reported on page 8480 of *Hansard*, the Prime Minister said in reference to oil prices: "The federal government will continue to levy a tax, or, after February 1, a charge, equal to the difference between our domestic price and the export price as determined by the National Energy Board." In light of the recent announcement by the Premier of Saskatchewan that beginning next year Saskatchewan will dispose of provincial oil at prices which are essentially export prices, is the minister prepared to seek an agreement with the province of Saskatchewan to resolve any possible differences which may arise between the two levels of government on this issue and, if so, is he prepared to try to reach such an agreement before the first ministers conference in January?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** It seems to me the January conference provides an admirable opportunity for Saskatchewan and any other province interested in oil to discuss these important questions of taxation and pricing.

#### OIL—FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS ON PRICING POLICY—REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION AND CONSULTATIONS WITH PROVINCES BEFORE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Yesterday, in answer to a question by the hon. member for Moose Jaw about a specific government proposal for a domestic pricing policy, the minister said: "We shall be bringing forward some alternative proposals in this regard to the

[Mr. Cossitt.]

conference". Will the federal government announce these proposals now, and will the minister hold consultations with the provinces before the January conference in an attempt to achieve a consensus on options for a domestic pricing policy before the conference takes place?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** There may well be exchanges between officials but it seems to me, if I understand what the provinces have in mind, that the conference is concerned precisely with consultation.

**Mr. Baker:** Has the federal government made any specific proposals for a domestic pricing policy to the premier of Saskatchewan and, if not, will the government now make such proposals having regard to the pricing policy proposals of that government?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I have made no proposals to the premier of Saskatchewan. As I say, it may very well be advisable to have our officials consult in preparation for the conference, but probably the most effective way of dealing with this question would be to discuss with all ten provinces the difficult question of oil pricing in Canada.

#### OIL PIPELINE EXTENSION TO MONTREAL—ACTION TO ACCELERATE PROJECT TO ENSURE COMPLETION BY 1975

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Can the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources tell the House what action the government has taken to accelerate the Montreal pipeline project in order to ensure that it will be completed before the 1975 deadline?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** We have been in consultation with the Interprovincial Pipeline Company and with the government of Quebec on the factors involved. For this purpose we have constituted a special group within the government of Canada to be led by the Deputy Minister of National Defence, Mr. Sylvain Cloutier, who will be seconded from his present post and given specific responsibility for the pipeline project.

**Mr. Paproski:** When will the government announce definite plans in connection with this project?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** At a relatively early date, I would hope.

#### POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCES PRIOR TO FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It arises from the statement by Premier Blakeney of Saskatchewan—

**Some hon. Members:** Sheik Blakeney!

**Mr. Douglas:**—that if the federal government wants Saskatchewan oil to be sold in Canada at less than its international value, the government of Saskatchewan will co-operate. The premier went on to say that if Saskatchewan were prepared to do this, the federal government, in