

prohibit its import into Canada. We intend to enforce the law as it presently exists. With regard to the future law, I will, of course, be consulting with my colleagues, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance.

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METRIC CONVERSION

REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF PROGRAM AS APPLIED TO SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism. It stems from two notices which arrived in my office this morning. One is a transcript of one sentence from the executive director of the Metric Commission in which he says the members in the sector dealing with scales in the retail food industry at a scheduled meeting for conversion of scales had, and I quote:

—agreed that the conversion to metric in Canada in 1982 should be more closely tied to our trading partner to the south, the United States—

For that reason the executive director was recommending a delay in the implementation of metric at this time.

In light of the minister's answer in the House a week ago that he would take into consideration the submissions of the Canadian Federation of Retail Grocers and the major corporate chains, and now that he has the Metric Commission opposed to the implementation of metric at this time, will the minister finally represent the small business sector in Canada and go before cabinet to delay forcing metric conversion, making Canadian measurement illegal in January, 1982?

[Translation]

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, the hon. member should have read the second paragraph of the notice that was sent to me by the task force on metric scale conversion in the retail food sector; he would then have indicated that in fact the task force recommends to defer initiation of the scale conversion process, however in the second paragraph it is mentioned that should the government decide to go ahead, it will be willing to co-operate fully with the government.

[English]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERCEDE

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, I would like to read what the executive director said in his second paragraph:

However, if the federal government proceeds against the wishes of this sector to publish that part of the *Gazette* making Canadian measurement illegal, the working group on scales in the retail food industry will continue to meet to minimize the costs and the confusion.

The third paragraph reads:

The committee members called upon the government—

Oral Questions

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Does the hon. member have a question, or does he just want to read a communique to the minister?

Mr. Domm: Madam Speaker, I have a question, but we continue to get bad answers from the other side.

However, my supplementary question is also for the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism. Will he intercede and remove the order in council causing fines, imprisonment and lockups if people continue using imperial measurement in 1982 and 1983? Will the minister represent the small business sector, or will he go the route of the last two cabinet ministers on the government side who failed to listen to the small business sector?

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: Do we not receive an answer?

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ENERGY

NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROVINCE OF ALBERTA ON PRICING AGREEMENT

Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Because of the impasse as far as reaching an energy agreement with the producing provinces is concerned, will the Prime Minister give consideration to instructing his Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to send the Petro-Canada negotiating team responsible for negotiating the Petrofina agreement to Alberta to negotiate a pricing agreement?

An hon. Member: What about Maurice Strong?

Mr. Andre: He is too busy on his ranch in Colorado.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I think the hon. member has the answers, Madam Speaker.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT ON ACID RAIN WITH UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Madam Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of the Environment. As the minister has had several meetings with officials of the United States government since President Reagan's visit to Canada when he assured Canadians that the American government would work with the Canadian government to greatly decrease acid rain, would the minister advise the House what movement there has been so far on the part of the