

*Oral Questions*

minister today give a clear undertaking of support for IPAC in this initiative?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the hon. member that there was a joint press conference in Calgary two days ago with the minister of energy for Alberta. We also had very close consultations with the minister of energy for the province of British Columbia.

We came forward with a three-part plan, strongly co-ordinated. I am pleased that unlike many experiences of the past the producers, the Government of Canada and the producing provinces are all in agreement on this energy policy. I think that is very important. We have sent a very strong message.

In respect to the National Energy Board the member asked me a very direct question. He would recognize that the CPA has made a second application to the NEB. I as minister am cognizant of my responsibilities, namely that the NEB remain independent. Obviously there are discussions taking place within the NEB on that issue and I will leave it at that point.

I will just make my last point, that the energy consultative mechanism, which is a meeting that takes place twice a year, once in Ottawa and once in Washington, is meeting today and tomorrow here in Ottawa. We have invited California, Alberta and B.C. to that meeting. That meeting is going on right now.

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast):** Mr. Speaker, the minister is not giving an undertaking. He will know that the reaction to the press conference yesterday in Alberta was very negative.

The situation affects not only exports but also pipeline development, transportation upgrading, exploration activities and indeed the future of a vital western Canadian industry.

Will the minister undertake in this House today to initiate as quickly as can be done an appeal to the Canada-U.S. free trade tribunal on this extremely important issue?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member and I have been in this House for some period of time. I understand partisan shots.

Seriously, the hon. member should take a look at what the response from the industry has been to the press conference. It has been positive, in fact as recently as eleven o'clock last night in Calgary when I spoke to them personally.

I mean I don't know where the guy is, except that he just wants to make a point in the House. The point of the matter is—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Windsor—St. Clair.

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**NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL**

**Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology or the minister of science and technology or whoever speaks for either of them.

Given the continuing reports of intimidation and retaliation against employees and former employees at NRC who have dared to question the decisions of management, given the retaliation against Chandler Grover for having made a racial discrimination complaint which is under investigation by the RCMP, and given retaliation against the IRAP board for its members having appeared before a committee of this House, is this government not now a bit concerned about the vindictively feudal style of management at NRC and what action does it plan to take?

**An hon. member:** Daryl Bean will answer that one.

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** As my hon. colleague says, Daryl Bean can answer that one, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. member characterizes a board of an arm's length agency as feudal. Therefore he would interfere with an arm's length agency. Arm's length agencies in this country are allowed to run their own affairs. In this particular case the board made its decision about how to handle that program. We respect its right to make that decision.

We would also like to remind my hon. friend that the whole IRAP program and the relationship to it by the NRC will be looked at in the new year. They are putting their house in order so that they can look at it objectively. We as a government stand behind the very effective