

the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs not to call the committee until November 6 for clause by clause study, which may mean that it will be too late for us to get the bill through all stages before the end of the session?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** No, Mr. Speaker, there certainly has been no such instruction, which would be quite improper. The government is most anxious to proceed with this important measure, particularly in view of the fact the bill contains important provisions making illegal the possession and sale of the kinds of devices which can be used in wiretapping.

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### ENERGY

#### POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED OIL IMPORTS FROM VENEZUELA IN EVENT OF INTERRUPTION OF MIDDLE EAST SUPPLIES

**Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In the event of a disruption of Middle East oil supplies to Canada and the necessity of increasing our imports of Venezuelan oil, what conditions did the Venezuelan government put before the minister for increased import of their oil?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, it was clear from the discussions that Venezuela would not be in a position to make any substantial increase in exports either to Canada or to any other country. Our objective really was to obtain the assurance that the very substantial supplies coming to Canada would not be interrupted in so far as the government of Venezuela can take action in that regard.

● (1500)

**Mr. Symes:** Has the government of the United States requested the Canadian government to increase supplies of oil to the United States and, if so, what is the position taken by the Canadian government?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** No such request has been made.

#### MEASURES TO PROVIDE HEATING OIL FOR ONTARIO AND QUEBEC THIS WINTER

**Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings):** Following the minister's statement I should like to address this question to him. In view of indications that parts of Ontario and Quebec will also be faced with critical shortages of oil for home heating, could the hon. gentleman tell us what special measures he is taking to ensure such supplies will not be cut off this winter?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** I have already responded to questions in that connection asked earlier today.

### Oral Questions AGRICULTURE

#### FLOOD DAMAGE TO CROPS IN AREAS OF MANITOBA—GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD FEDERAL COMPENSATION

**Mr. Peter P. Masniuk (Portage):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Has the hon. gentleman been contacted by the province of Manitoba concerning the need for assistance in consequence of heavy rains which have caused flooding, resulting in severe damage to hay and other crops in the Interlake region?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, but I would have to check and let the hon. member know.

**Mr. Masniuk:** Bearing in mind the assistance given to other areas in past years, would the minister look favourably upon a request for assistance in this case from the Manitoba government?

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, when it has been a question of aid provided to one segment of our farm population, the same treatment will be accorded to farmers in any part of the country.

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### NATIONAL DEFENCE

#### INQUIRY AS TO DECISION ON REPLACEMENT FOR TRACKER AIRCRAFT—POSSIBILITY OF CONTRACT BEING AWARDED TO McDONNELL DOUGLAS

**Mr. Jim Fleming (York West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. Considering the fact that the McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Company, employing many thousands of people in north-western Toronto, will soon have completed its production of DC-9 and DC-10 wing assemblies, and in view of the fact that many thousands of people in this community are afraid of consequences similar to the Arrow experience, can the minister tell us when the decision concerning a replacement for the navy's Tracker aircraft will be made, and whether McDonnell Douglas' superior entry is being looked on favourably?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** We have completed our studies of the proposals made by four aircraft manufacturing companies and I expect to be announcing in the near future the entry into the contract definition stage with two companies.

#### INQUIRY AS TO DECISION ON REPLACEMENT FOR ARGUS AIRCRAFT

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** I have a supplementary to the Minister of National Defence arising from the fact that his statement of October 10 regarding the role of the forces and related capital expenditures raised more questions than it answered. Could the minister tell the House the situation with regard to the Argus replacement? When will an announcement be made in this case to reduce the number of competing companies to two for detailed specifications?