

Oil Exploration

consent of the House to discuss a question of pressing necessity.

Since the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) has stated that the price of gas and heating oil would increase by 14 cents a gallon within two years and since northwest Quebec is now paying almost 10 cents more for gas than the rest of the country, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Gauthier):

That the House ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to take the necessary steps to exempt northwest Quebec from the forthcoming price increases on gas till the prices paid in that area are comparable to those paid in the remainder of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Under the provisions of Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there such consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

[English]

ABORTION

ALLEGATION STATEMENTS IN "SEX EDUCATION: A TEACHER'S GUIDE" IN CONFLICT WITH CRIMINAL CODE PROVISIONS—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that booklet Number 4 of the series entitled "Sex Education: A Teacher's Guide", printed and distributed under the authority of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde) is in direct conflict with the provisions for therapeutic abortions in the Criminal Code, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Wenman):

That this House direct the Minister of Justice to review booklet Number 4 of the series "Sex Education: A Teacher's Guide", to ascertain whether or not statements contained therein are in harmony with the Criminal Code and that he report back to this House with his findings within 60 days.

Mr. Speaker: Presentation of such a motion pursuant to Standing Order 43 requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

ENERGY

PROPOSED SPONSORSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE INTO RISKS OF OIL EXPLORATION IN ARCTIC—MOTION UNDER
S.O. 43

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity pursuant to Standing Order 43. In view of the fact that Canada is the first Arctic nation to commence drilling offshore in the Arctic waters; in view of the serious risk not only to our northern waters, but also to Arctic waters shared by our neighbours, the

[Mr. Caouette (Vileneuve).]

United States, Denmark, Norway and the Soviet Union, as pointed out in the Berger Report; in view of the possibility that an accumulation of oil in the Arctic could affect the northern climate by the albedo effect and all cause irreversible damage to the polar environment; and in view of the fact that there is no international agreement on Arctic development, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth):

That Canada sponsor an international conference of Arctic nations to commence joint research into the risks and consequences of oil and gas exploration and transportation activities in the Arctic Ocean.

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43 presentation of such a motion for debate can be done only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

CONFEDERATION

SPEECH BY GORDON ROBERTSON—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON
VIEWS EXPRESSED

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put my question to the Acting Prime Minister. It concerns a speech made by Mr. Gordon Robertson, secretary to the Cabinet, on federal-provincial relations when he spoke of the division of Quebec in the event that northern Quebecers voting in a future referendum do not vote to separate. I say that this can only be taken to mean that the government is prepared to at least partially comply with the results of a separation referendum. Would the Acting Prime Minister tell the House whether that speech represents government policy and if not, what authority did this senior public servant have?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I was aware personally that Mr. Robertson intended to make this speech. His views are his views. They are his views on a personal, individual basis, they are not necessarily government policy and were not intended to be an expression of government policy.

CONTINGENCY PLANS IF QUEBEC SEPARATES

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, it is clear that in his speech the head of the federal-provincial relations secretariat of the cabinet was speaking not on a matter of government policy. In fact, so far as the government is concerned, he has been denounced by the Acting Prime Minister for what he said. The speech also took the form of a blueprint for discussing the separation process, for discussing