

● (1430)

POSSIBLE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN DEBATE AT UNITED NATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST—CANADIAN POSITION ON RIGHTS OF ISRAEL

**Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Would he advise the House whether Canada intends to take any part in the debate on the Middle East commencing this week at the United Nations?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, that is a matter I cannot deal with definitively at the moment. I am sure there will be Canadian participation in the debate at some point, but whether it will be this week or later is still open.

**Mr. Fraser:** Mr. Speaker, would the minister advise the House what position Canada will take during the debate in respect of the rights of the state of Israel?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that if and when Canada participates in the debate this will give the Canadian spokesman an opportunity to restate Canada's position in respect of the existence of Israel, and its right to exist within secure and recognized boundaries, as the foundation stone of our Canadian policy.

WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME—POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD STORAGE DEPOTS

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to a question asked by the hon. member for Fundy-Royal. In view of the fact that some 25 per cent of all food grown in developing countries or provided to them by countries such as Canada is destroyed by rodents prior to reaching the consuming public, were any steps taken at the conference to assure that adequate storage depots will be set up in countries requiring this food and, if so, what plans were made?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as yet there have been no decisions or formal resolutions adopted because the committees had just begun to operate toward the end of last week. The question of storage, its importance, as well as the question of distribution were raised in a number of statements, but one will have to wait until the actual deliberations of the committees and their results to know whether any internationally agreed program will be developed along these lines.

\* \* \*

ENERGY

SUGGESTED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN QUEBEC AND ONTARIO ON SUPPLY OF ELECTRICAL POWER—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL POWER GRID

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the coal strike in the United States and the trouble Ontario is having at its Pickering nuclear plant and its Nanticoke thermal plant thereby making a very dangerous winter ahead for Ontario in power supply,

Oral Questions

and in view of the fact that Quebec Hydro is negotiating a deal to sell its surplus electric power to the United States, I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he would ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to give the same treatment to the provinces of Ontario and Quebec as he has undertaken between the Ontario government and Alberta, bringing these two adjoining provinces together in a mutually acceptable policy on energy?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will gladly convey that representation to the minister when he returns.

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that all provinces have asked the federal government at the conference of last March 27 to start work on a national power grid, will the Prime Minister adopt this as a number one priority of his government in order to give us some basic national energy policy so that all Canadians will have first chance at all energy forms in all parts of Canada?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources commented on this at the time indicating there were very serious technical difficulties which make that grid improbable in the immediate future. The long distances between Manitoba and Ontario particularly are considerations which do not permit us now usefully and economically to set up the kind of grid about which the hon. member talks. This is perhaps something for the future. If I remember correctly the attitude of the minister, this was something that his department was looking at.

\* \* \*

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

CONSULTATIONS WITH NORTHERN RESIDENTS ON EFFECTS OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT—POSSIBLE REVIEW OF DRILLING IN BEAUFORT SEA

**Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of the Environment I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of a recent report by Mr. Robert Wicklund and his associates which suggests that oil spills in the Arctic are extremely long-lived in their effects, and in view of his suggestion that conditions in many parts of the Arctic environment are sensitive to "even the slightest bit of pollution", I should like to ask whether the government has undertaken any program to set up ongoing consultations on a permanent basis with the northern residents regarding the effect on their life-style and culture of resource development which will have an effect on the fragile northern environment?

**Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, there are several programs taking place, some involving Indian bands and some where consultants are involved, as well as others directly between the various resource industries themselves and the communities being affected.