

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

### REPLACEMENT OF LONG-RANGE MARITIME SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT

**Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of National Defence. Does the minister intend to make a statement in the House about the replacement of long-range patrol aircraft to carry out Canada's maritime surveillance responsibilities?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** Not in the near future, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** On December 4 the minister issued a press release. I should like to know whether the minister can let the House and the country know whether, before the decision as announced in the press release was taken, consideration was given by him and by the cabinet to the almost equal trade-off possibilities, in the case of Nimrod, of balancing off the cost of acquiring the Nimrod against the sale of CANDU reactors to Britain to give us access in this field not only to Britain but to the European Economic Community?

**Mr. Richardson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, very careful consideration was given to all possible offsets in the case of all competing manufacturing companies.

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## ENERGY

### INQUIRY WHETHER IN FACT SAUDI ARABIA HAS IMPOSED EMBARGO ON EXPORTS OF OIL TO CANADA

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Is the minister now in a position to confirm that there is a *de facto* embargo on shipments of oil to Canada from Saudi Arabia?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, we are receiving two conflicting sets of information. From our diplomatic representatives and from the government of Saudi Arabia and from the international company there is the government denial that Canada is under embargo, but Aramco, the oil company, insists that we are.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Can the minister confirm that no oil has been shipped to Canada from Saudi Arabia since October 19, and that the shipment he referred to the other day as having been received by Irving was in fact en route on or before October 19?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm the actual timing of the shipment received late in November.

## Oral Questions AGRICULTURE

### SALE OF LIQUID PROTEIN TO LIVESTOCK FARMERS IN LIGHT OF REGULATIONS CONCERNING MOISTURE CONTENT OF DRY PRODUCTS

**Mr. William C. Frank (Middlesex):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In light of the fact it has always been mandatory for feed manufacturers to register specifically the moisture content of their dry products before sale to the trade, why are companies presently allowed to offer for sale liquid protein to the livestock farmer without registering the maximum moisture content so that farmers will know how much plain water they are buying?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to look into that.

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## ENERGY

### OIL SHIPMENTS FROM SAUDI ARABIA—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO CLARIFY SITUATION

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, following the information just given by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources regarding shipments of oil from Saudi Arabia. Does the government intend to take any initiative, or has it taken any initiative to clarify the situation with regard to the shipment of oil from Saudi Arabia; or does the government have to await passage of Bill C-236 and declare a state of emergency before taking a simple diplomatic initiative?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Canadian ambassador accredited to Saudi Arabia has been there for the last few days.

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## OLYMPIC GAMES, 1976

### METHOD OF AWARDED ADVERTISING CONTRACT FOR COIN PROGRAM

**Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General and arises from reports that the Postmaster General awarded the Olympic coin advertising contract on the basis of what he has called usual procedures. Will the minister tell the House what these usual procedures are and, specifically, did one of these procedures include consideration of the fact that a Liberal Party campaign official is reported to have held a high position—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member must recognize that the question asked in those terms is out of order.