

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** King Louis is in trouble.

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Have any approaches been made in recent days to the Minister of Finance or to the government on behalf of the province of New Brunswick concerning the dire possibility of that province's immediate financial bankruptcy?

**Mr. Benson:** I think that my hon. friend is seriously exaggerating the position of the province of New Brunswick. Continuous consultation is going on at both the official and ministerial levels between the government and the various provinces in Canada.

**Mr. Bell:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister himself been approached within the last few days about the particular problem resulting from the recent budget in New Brunswick?

**Mr. Benson:** If my hon. friend asks whether I spoke to the premier of New Brunswick or to the provincial minister, then my answer is that I have not.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Finally, the minister gave a straight answer.

**OIL****DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON  
AS TO EXPORTS**

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** I have a question for the Prime Minister. In his discussions with the President of the United States during the last two days, did he ask for and receive an assurance from President Nixon that Canadian exports of oil to the United States would be allowed to increase progressively year by year, as was guaranteed in the first national oil policy established in 1961?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** What the President and I agreed upon was that the across-border movement of energy between Canada and the United States should be discussed at full length at the meeting which will be held in a couple of weeks time, on April 2. All aspects of our oil policy and of the oil policy of the United States will be considered at that joint meeting.

**Mr. Hees:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will those conducting the discussions at the time of the meeting press for the same kind of progressively increasing

allocation of oil exports to the United States as was agreed to in the original oil policy, an assurance which is so necessary to Canada?

**Mr. Trudeau:** We will impress upon the United States the importance to them of buying as much good, secure Canadian oil as is possible.

**IMPORTS FROM VENEZUELA—CANADIAN  
MARKET IN NORTHWESTERN  
UNITED STATES**

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, may I, through you, ask the Prime Minister a question. He said everything went very well, yet today there is no firm agreement between Canada and the United States on a settled continental oil policy, on the grounds that we continue to permit Venezuelan oil to come in as far as the western Ottawa valley. At the same time, Canada does not have a guaranteed market in the northwestern United States, in Chicago or Toledo.

**An hon. Member:** What is the question?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** This question has been dealt with at various times by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. At this time, I merely want to say that the President and I reviewed the existing arrangements under which the policy of the United States and Canada with regard to oil and to other forms of energy are devised for the mutual benefit of both countries. We did realize that there was a necessity to review these policies and to improve them if necessary.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Speaking metaphorically in this regard, and having listened to his statement, may I ask the Prime Minister what kind of elephant he was sleeping with in the United States.

**An hon. Member:** It was not an oily one.

**LABOUR RELATIONS****AMENDMENTS TO INDUSTRIAL  
DISPUTES STATUTE**

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** I should like to address a question to the Minister of Labour. Is his department preparing any legislation to amend the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act and, if so, when might such amendments be expected to be presented to the house.