

*Oral Questions*

● (1450)

**Mr. Bell:** Even if legislation is necessary, will the Prime Minister give the assurance that he will have a minister other than the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources be responsible for this important task in the coming months this winter?

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER GIVE PRIORITY TO  
SECURING AGREEMENT WITH ATLANTIC PROVINCES ON  
OFFSHORE MINERAL RIGHTS

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of Premier Regan's statement that an agreement between the Atlantic provinces and Ottawa on offshore mineral rights can be secured as soon as we can get federal officials to find time for a meeting to complete the negotiations, will the Prime Minister give priority to such a meeting so that the development of our energy resources in Atlantic Canada will not be further delayed?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the delay cannot be attributed to us. I missed the first words of the question and therefore I do not know to whom the words are to be ascribed.

**Mr. Fairweather:** To Premier Regan.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I understand they are Premier Regan's. I can only say that I wrote Premier Regan and the other Atlantic premiers and, indeed, the premier of Quebec, a very short while ago indicating to them our desire to proceed with this. Until now they have been proceeding as a group of five provinces. But recent development indicated they were no longer a group. I wrote them saying we wanted to continue the discussions with either all five or a smaller number, but would they let us know as soon as possible.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will recognize the Leader of the Opposition and then call orders of the day.

OIL PRODUCTS PRICES—NATURE OF GOVERNMENT  
UNDERTAKING TO COMPANIES ON PRICE INCREASES  
BASED ON INCREASE IN IMPORTED CRUDE COST

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. A number of days ago he indicated that, in exchange for the voluntary agreement by the companies to freeze product prices, he had agreed that increased cost of imported crude could be passed on by way of product price increases. Could the minister indicate very briefly just what the nature of his or the government's undertaking was to the companies with respect to increased prices based upon increased costs of imported crude and how long this undertaking given by the government is to remain in effect?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the undertaking is essentially in the form described by the Prime Minister in his statement of September 4 and as expressed subsequently, that identified increases in costs of eastern refiners relat-

[Mr. Trudeau.]

ed to increases in the price of their offshore feedstock could, upon satisfaction to the department and to myself, be passed on in higher prices. This would, of course, be for the period that the prices are under restraint as they are at present.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Do I gather from an answer given earlier today that the minister is reviewing this position?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Reviewing the position with regard to eastern refiners?

**Mr. Stanfield:** Yes.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** At the moment I have had no indication of additional cost increases, but since the cost increase involved in the Venezuelan decision is at a very much lower percentage than the previous one, I would require further satisfaction that indeed there would be any kind of penalty to the refiners from absorbing this cost increase rather than seeking to pass it on.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### PAROLE ACT

#### APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL AD HOC MEMBERS TO NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-191, to amend the Parole Act, as reported (with an amendment) from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) wishes to rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order with respect to the order of business that has just been called. I think it could be said that there have been some discussions about the order of business this afternoon, and that there are a few difficulties because of the absence thus far of certain members. With respect to Bill C-191, there are a couple of report stage amendments to it in the name of the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) who will not be here for an hour or so. It was suggested that we might move on to Bill C-190, order No. 43, but I am told that the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner), who has put down amendments to that bill, will not be here for an hour either. It was suggested also that we might deal with the residential mortgages bill, but the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Basford) is not here. I suppose all this adds up to the fact that it would be a good day to deal with family allowances and the Canada Pension Plan—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** —except that since we are prepared to give third reading to those two