

Oral Questions

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The hon. member refers, as I believe the Leader of the Opposition did, to decisions of the Anti-Inflation Board. The only decision of which I am aware is that they are carrying out their mandate in this particular case by talking to the parties to the dispute. One of the parties is the Government of Canada, and that means all the ministers on this side of the House.

Mr. Lawrence: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. According to press reports, as late as three quarters of an hour ago a decision had been handed down by the Anti-Inflation Board. But whether it has or has not, may I get down to brass tacks and ask the Prime Minister whether the cabinet would be willing to hear a joint appeal by the metro Toronto school board and the metro Toronto secondary school teachers federation regarding the decision of the Anti-Inflation Board of 10 days ago?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, once again, as I did in reply to the Leader of the Opposition, I refer the hon. member to the statute which is in the process of being passed and which will soon be proclaimed, or to the white paper, where he will see what procedure has been laid out. The hon. member refers to a decision of the Anti-Inflation Board, a recent one, he says. No member on this side is aware of any such decision, so if the hon. member has information I wish he would lay it before the House.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CHILE—CANADIAN SUPPORT FOR EXAMINATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, but in his absence it might be directed to the Prime Minister. With respect to the vote at the United Nations yesterday concerning the situation in Chile, when the assembly registered its profound distress at the constant and flagrant violations of human rights, a vote that Canada supported, in view of the comments made at that time by our delegate to the third committee that Canada was not totally accepting the conclusions of the report of the special working group because it was not able to enter Chile to observe and make inquiries first hand, would the government take further action directly through diplomatic channels with the government of Chile in order that there can be a full and complete examination of the situation in that country?

[Translation]

Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am sure all government members highly appreciate this question. The hon. member points out the concern we have always felt in the past with regard to the situation in Chile. At the time, we protested against the fact that no international commission could go and see on the spot what was going on there. We will continue to do so. Our positive vote yesterday, at the United Nations, in favour of human rights being respected in Chile proves indeed that we will continue to do so.

*[Mr. Lawrence.]**[English]*

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. While appreciating and congratulating the government on the vote, would the parliamentary secretary indicate, in view of the lack of information which seemed to concern our delegate to the third committee, whether we will be taking definite action with the junta in Chile to ensure that there is a full examination by this working group, or a similar one established by the United Nations?

[Translation]

Miss Bégin: Mr. Speaker, I did not answer the supplementary previously because it seems to me to be fairly obvious that we are working on a multilateral level; I therefore cannot make a unilateral statement on the matter at this time.

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*[English]***ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA LIMITED****SUGGESTED INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS OF AUDITOR GENERAL CONCERNING FINANCIAL SITUATION**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. With respect to the Auditor General's report that AECL is guilty both of inflating the true value of its assets and of understating the current extent of its liabilities, and in view of the \$100 million loss on the Argentine project, does the minister intend to consult his colleague the President of the Treasury Board regarding the launching of a full scale inquiry into the financial management systems of AECL?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am sure hon. members will have plenty of opportunity in the public accounts committee to question officials of AECL.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, which I will direct to the President of the Treasury Board. Does the minister agree that if the practice followed by AECL were followed by a public company in this country, the legal consequences could be very serious indeed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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HEALTH**FINDING OF LEAD IN CANNED SOFT DRINKS—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that federal inspectors have found traces of lead in 7-UP cans, could the minister inform the House whether his officials have extended investigations to other pop manufacturers as well as to producers of canned beer, and would he say whether major retailers have been notified of these findings?