

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): This question was not originally on the agenda but I would be quite prepared to brief them. We have responded favourably to the suggestion of the premier of Nova Scotia that there might be a meeting of the five eastern provinces on this question. I shall certainly be glad at the November 23 meeting to take the opportunity of giving full information on the present state of supply and any measures to be taken. I should explain that the November 23 meeting is also to prepare for a full scale energy conference for next year and also to deal with the second stage of our mining policy.

● (1440)

OIL SUPPLY—SUGGESTED PROVISION OF ACCELERATED COST WRITE-OFF TO THOSE WHO BUILD LOCAL STORAGE FACILITIES

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which I wish to address to the Minister of Finance. In view of the urgency of the situation we face this winter, would the minister consider, after consultations with his colleagues, announcing that he is prepared in his next budget to introduce a two-year rapid acceleration provision for all those who build storage facilities in local communities?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): That is a representation that I will certainly consider, Mr. Speaker.

AVAILABILITY OF VENEZUELAN OIL FOR SALE TO POSSIBLE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT CORPORATION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. May I ask the minister whether there is to his knowledge oil available in Venezuela that the appropriate agency in Venezuela would be prepared to enter into a contract for sale thereof this winter to a government sponsored or government owned energy corporation in Canada?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the original discussion was with regard to availability of oil following the end of the concessions in Venezuela whenever that might be. Late last week, I think either on Friday or Saturday, there was an indication that Venezuela might be planning to take its royalty in kind, in which case the Venezuelan agency C.V.P. would have oil available. We are pursuing that particular information but at the moment I cannot indicate whether there is any possibility of a contract in the near future.

OIL—SUGGESTED INTERVENTION OF PRIME MINISTER OR ANOTHER MINISTER IN MEETINGS WITH ALBERTA

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Since the methods followed by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in his dealings with the province of Alberta have led to confrontation on two consecutive occasions, will the Prime Minister advise whether the right hon. gentleman plans to intervene personally in this matter by

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meeting with the premier of Alberta or using other means, or whether he intends to nominate the Minister of Finance or some other intermediary to help end this atmosphere of confrontation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am always ready and delighted to meet with the premier of Alberta on any subject, but on this particular one I must assure the House that the entire government is behind the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hellyer: They are all behind.

Mr. Trudeau:—comma—in support of a policy that is not unfair to the American people and which only has the effect of returning to the treasury, for the time being, a windfall profit that otherwise would have gone not to the people of Alberta but to the multinational corporations.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

OIL EXPORT TAX—REPRESENTATIONS TO ALBERTA MINISTERS VIS-À-VIS FEDERAL POLICY

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): I am not quite sure, Mr. Speaker, what is meant by the reference to the American people, but I will let it pass as a fault of geography. May I direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. May I ask the minister whether the representations made to ministers of the Alberta government a week ago tonight regarding the export tax differed appreciably from the position that the government announced Thursday night? If so, would the minister explain why the policy differed from the representations?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, we presented to the Alberta ministers the options that the government faced, which basically were the options whether there should be a staged increase in price to February 1 west of the Ottawa Valley line or some variation of that. These options were presented to the ministers, but because they had refused to sanction any action under the price restraint program we arrived at no agreement.

OIL SUPPLIES—ESTIMATE OF POSSIBLE IMPORT SHORTFALL—POSSIBLE NATIONAL MARKETING MECHANISM

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact the Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia, have announced a reduction in oil production of 25 per cent for November and an additional 5 per cent in the month of December, and in view of the constant danger that Venezuelan oil may be diverted to the United States, may I ask the minister whether his department has made any estimate of the parameters within which we can anticipate imported oil supplies this winter. Has the minister made any