

Mrs. Joanna Psarski of Georgetown, Ontario, who came to Canada a few years ago as a landed immigrant, along with her husband, and who returned to Poland for a visit on the death of her father and is now being kept in that country. I should like to commend the minister for his attempts to intercede with the Polish government with a view to getting permission for her return, and wonder whether he could bring the House up to date on the present situation as far as Mrs. Psarski's possible return to Canada is concerned.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot bring the House up to date today but I shall attempt to do so later this week.

Mr. Cossitt: Might I address a supplementary to the Prime Minister? If it turns out that Mrs. Psarski is still unable to leave Poland with the permission of the Polish government, will the right hon. gentleman consider facilitating the passage of a unanimous resolution by the House asking the Polish government for its co-operation on humanitarian grounds to allow her to return to her husband in Georgetown?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): It is a fact that in many instances the government of Canada has intervened with heads of state on humanitarian grounds, so the principle of such action is not foreign to us. However, in any particular case I would submit to the judgment of the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

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ENERGY

TAR SANDS—POSSIBILITY OF NEW MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT—PERMISSION TO SELL PRODUCT AT WORLD PRICE

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the desirability of Canada being self-sufficient in energy supplies in the foreseeable future, and since the National Energy Board now projects only a six-year supply for this country, can the right hon. gentleman tell us whether the government is contemplating any new initiative by way of tax incentives to encourage further exploration or more speedy development of the tar sands in order to ensure sufficiency of supply?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I would have to make a complete statement of our energy policy in order to answer that question in any satisfactory way, and I do not think this is the time to do so.

Mr. Yewchuk: With regard to ensuring quicker development of the Athabasca tar sands, is the government willing to give certain assurances to potential developers there that all their products will be allowed to be marketed and, second, that they can reasonably expect to receive the international price for it?

Mr. Trudeau: Here again, the question is general in its nature. However, if it related to any specific request I would have to examine the particular circumstances. On

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the international price, I believe this has been made part of our policy statement in that we would allow the price for such petroleum to reach or to tend toward the international price. I believe the expression "international price" was used, but I am not sure. I am sure a statement has been made in this regard, but perhaps I could take note of the question so the minister will be able to answer when he is back in the House.

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● (1450)

[Translation]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO DEAL WITH INCREASED COST OF COFFEE

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Over the weekend, a consumer association advised me that the price of coffee has shot up exorbitantly. Today, over the radio, the same news was confirmed and the government was blamed for not stepping in. May I ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether it falls within his jurisdiction to check into the matter and ascertain whether prices have increased inordinately, and what position he intends to take to protect the consumers with regard to the price of coffee?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the price of coffee should have gone up so much. The hon. member should know that the product is imported and that we have very little control over the international price which is unfortunately very high indeed. The price has been going up for several months now. Still, I cannot resist the temptation of telling the hon. member, who comes from a rural area, that he should perhaps encourage the people to drink less coffee and more milk.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. I take notice of the suggestion of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and I shall stress my procedure to meet his wish. However, I would like to ask him very seriously whether the board established under Bill C-73 will have some say in the control over the prices of these imported goods or whether they can be left absolutely free so that those who sell these products will be able to increase their prices immoderately?

Mr. Ouellet: No, Mr. Speaker, for all the other food products sold in stores employing more than 500 people, these stores will have to comply with the government guidelines. It means that these stores will not be allowed to increase the prices by more than the rise in production costs. Where it is not possible to establish these costs the stores will have to set a price level which is not higher than 95 per cent of the average profits these stores made over the five previous years. This procedure is extremely rigorous, Mr. Speaker, and this leads me to say that I am not at all surprised to see some food chains announce a price freeze for the next months.