

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Forrestall:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell the House if any discussions have taken place between the officials of his department or officials of the Department of National Defence and corresponding United States government officials respecting the sale of this mini-sub? If so, what was the nature of these talks? Also, was the decision to lift the export permit based on these discussions?

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, indeed, such conversations do take place between the Canadian government and the American government on occasions of this kind, as is normal between two allies. However, the decision was made strictly for Canadian security reasons.

**Mr. Baldwin:** No doubt that is what the Prime Minister told the President in Washington.

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**ENERGY****NATURAL GAS—REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF BOARD DECISION IN VIEW OF DISCOVERIES BY PANARCTIC**

**Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of announced discoveries by Panarctic oil of natural gas in the Ellef-Ringnes Islands of the Northwest Territories, is the Prime Minister willing to intercede on behalf of Alberta producers and ask the National Energy Board to review applications which were recently turned down?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is suggesting that the government should intervene with the National Energy Board, I have suggested previously that the law does not permit us to do so in such circumstances.

**Mr. Horner:** I think the law certainly does.

**GAS AND OIL—ALLEGED INTENTION OF ALBERTA TO FORCE PRICE INCREASES—POSITION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

**Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the government intend to resist the upward forcing of the price of gas and oil, to prevent Canadian domestic prices from reaching the level of prices in the United States market. Does this accord with the objectives of the Alberta government and producers in Alberta?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it is not so much a question of the government resisting as determining what is in the interests of the Canadian public. If such a measure were contemplated by the Alberta government, it must realize, of course, that it would be the consumer in Quebec and Ontario who would pay for additional subsidies to the Alberta people. I am not sure those consumers would be happy to do so.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** What about Saskatchewan potash? You let them get away with it.

[Mr. Pepin.]

**POST OFFICE****POSSIBLE PROSECUTION OF PROFESSOR VANDERBERG FOR ALLEGED FALSE STATEMENTS—POSITION OF POSTMASTER GENERAL**

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Postmaster General. In view of the reported statement by the Assistant Deputy Postmaster General to the effect that the department is contemplating legal action against Professor Vanderberg for making false accusations against the management of the Post Office, could the Postmaster General inform the House whether he, himself, intends to take such action?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, Mr. Barrière did not give any press conference or make any public statement in this connection.

As for taking legal action against Mr. Vanderberg I can see no reason for doing so.

[English]

**SUGGESTED MEETING BETWEEN PROFESSOR VANDERBERG, UNIONS AND POSTMASTER GENERAL**

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the Postmaster General consider meeting with Professor Vanderberg and representatives of the postal unions to discuss the alleged charges, so that there might be an amicable understanding on the matter instead of the possible legal action.

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, if they want to meet with me, I would have no objection at all.

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**PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS****NEWFOUNDLAND—POSSIBLE ADVICE TO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WITH REGARD TO SITUATION FOLLOWING ELECTION**

**Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Transport. Has the minister advised the Prime Minister to request the Governor General to have the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland summon the House of Assembly of that province into session?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member knows that this question cannot be asked in those terms of the minister. Perhaps the hon. member might like to rephrase the question or ask another question of the minister. The hon. member, I am sure, knows that in those terms the question cannot be answered.

• (4:50 p.m.)

**Mr. Carter:** Mr. Speaker, I will then direct my question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister received advice from the Minister of Transport or from his own advisers or federal law officers to have the Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland, who was appointed by the Governor in Council, call the House of Assembly into