

Mr. Crouse: Does the government have a short-term industrial strategy aimed at lowering domestic oil prices?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has pointed out that, as far as the Maritimes are concerned, there are more sources of energy than oil. He announced the federal government's participation in a nuclear power generating facility.

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[Translation]

GRAIN

STEPS TO OVERCOME SHORTAGE OF FEED GRAIN IN EASTERN CANADA—PRICE LEVEL

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

Since feed grain reserves are now at the 430,000 bushels level in Quebec, while at this date last year they reached 3 million bushels, can the minister assure the House and eastern Canada farmers that the latter will not endure a feed grain shortage in the near future and that they will not be subject to a price increase?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, there was a meeting only last Monday of the various persons interested in the movement of grain. Steps are being taken to ensure that the rail movement of grain that will be needed to augment supplies this winter will be carried out efficiently and will bring the supplies most critically needed to the right place as quickly as possible. There are, of course, adequate supplies in the west, and with the new feed grains policy there is the assurance that the same feed grain prices will apply all across the country.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe on a supplementary.

[Translation]

The hon. member may ask a supplementary question, but the oral question period is just about expired. I will then recognize the hon. member for Lévis.

[English]

Then the Chair will recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

● (1530)

[Translation]

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the minister.

What action has the minister taken to assure eastern Canada of a stepped-up supply before the St. Lawrence Seaway closes?

[English]

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, grain movement through the Lakehead and the Seaway were given very special attention to the point when the Seaway closed, and as well will be given attention so long as boats are able to move

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through the lakes. In addition, rail movement will be augmented this year and will no doubt be larger both for domestic and export purposes than was the case in previous years.

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[Translation]

HARBOURS

FINANCIAL AID TO CERTAIN PORTS

Mr. Raynald Guay (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport.

Since he indicated the government was considering guaranteeing a loan to the Maritime Employees' Association with respect to financial help for the port in Montreal, can the minister say if similar financial aid will be given to other ports in Canada?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker. I think this problem applies only to those ports in Montreal, Trois-Rivières and Quebec City. The only other help will be with respect to the port of Halifax that will be receiving this year a grant of \$1 million for its operating expenditures and that is the only port to receive such attention from the federal government.

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[English]

ENERGY

ALLOCATION OF OIL SUPPLIES—POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION TO MEET CONDITIONS NOT CONSTITUTING NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I should like to ask the minister whether he is contemplating the introduction of legislation which would authorize the government, or some agency of the government, to allocate oil supplies under conditions that do not constitute a national emergency within the meaning of clause 11 of the bill where there are difficult particular or local situations that cannot be satisfied and met by voluntary persuasion. Does the minister contemplate filing that vacuum in terms of legislation?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman will know, the constitutional jurisdiction of the government can only extend in the case of an emergency. We would, of course, have to have an emergency to find a constitutional base in that regard. The purpose would be that with widespread national evidence of the effects of disruption on people we would seek the guidance of the board, when established, for the purpose of determining whether or not the Governor in Council should make the finding provided for in the statute.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands and then call orders of the day.