

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR TO ARGENTINA—REQUEST FOR
TABLING OF CONTRACT CONTAINING PROVISION FOR
SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATION OF SAFEGUARDS

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, may I give an interim answer to the question which the Leader of the Opposition asked me earlier. I would direct his attention to a statement made by my colleague the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources on December 20, 1974, in this House as recorded at page 2428 of *Hansard*. In dealing with the more stringent safeguards in respect of the sale abroad of Canadian nuclear facilities and materials my colleague said:

Not only will these binding safeguards apply to all future sales, but the government has decided to negotiate additional safeguards in respect of uranium supply contracts already approved. Existing contracts and contracts pending will be allowed to proceed during the course of the next calendar year while new safeguards are being negotiated.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. I am sure the Acting Prime Minister will agree that does not answer my question. Can the Acting Prime Minister table in this House the provisions of the contract with Argentina which allow it to be reopened or more accurately, which allow the subsequent negotiation of safeguards. Can the Acting Prime Minister table this information so that we will all be aware of what prudence or lack of it the government of Canada showed when it negotiated this contract in 1974?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, the contract was negotiated in 1973. As I have said in the House we are now endeavouring to enter into bilateral agreements on safeguards with the Argentine and this is a requirement of the supply of that reactor.

Mr. Stanfield: A further supplementary. Will the Acting Prime Minister stop trying to be evasive and say whether the government is prepared to table this alleged provision or is he in fact admitting there was no set provision for the negotiation of safeguards and the government is trying to make up for its imprudence?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I think the government is being very straightforward and honest.

An hon. Member: A straightforward cover-up.

Mr. Sharp: What my colleague the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said on December 20, 1974 is that we were increasing our safeguards—

An hon. Member: What are they?

Mr. Sharp:—and that all contracts under way or at any stage would be subject to the same safeguards. Surely, the Leader of the Opposition wants the government to follow that policy—or does he?

An hon. Member: Table the documents.

An hon. Member: What are they?

Oral Questions

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, one further supplementary question. I ask the Acting Prime Minister again whether he was prepared to table the provisions that he alleges were part of this contract negotiated in 1973. I take it the Acting Prime Minister is now conceding that there were no provisions in that 1973 agreement in regard to safeguards and his position is that subsequently, in December of 1974, the government decided it had been imprudent and would try to reopen those contracts to provide at this late date some adequate safeguards?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I might point out to the hon. gentleman that the contract in 1973 was on the basis of the existing safeguards arrangement and that was a condition of the contract. Of course, at the subsequent date the government put a higher standard of safeguards on uranium, technology and equipment. As the Acting Prime Minister has indicated, we are in the process of negotiating a stiffer set of safeguards with Argentina.

An hon. Member: Table them.

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FISHERIES

WHALES—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON CANADA'S POSITION
AT INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION MEETING

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the question of the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): So is mine.

Mr. Brewin: Well, I think I have the floor. I should also like to get the attention of the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fears expressed by groups of naturalists all across Canada to various members of government that the Canadian delegation to the International Whaling Commission meeting in London has taken the compromising stand of not adequately supporting measures of conservation for this disappearing species will the minister give an undertaking to the House now that either he or some other appropriate minister will report fully to the House on the stand the Canadian delegation took on this issue and what the results of the meeting have been?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will endeavour to fulfil that request. I do not know whether there will be time to have a full scale debate on the matter in the House but I am sure the minister who has direct responsibility will be happy to supply whatever information is available.

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AERONAUTICS ACT

ALLEGED VIOLATION BY CARRIERS OF PROHIBITION
AGAINST DISCRIMINATORY RATES—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport I will direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view