

Oral Questions

extensive study on the phenomenon, but you will understand perfectly well that we are not indifferent to what is going on not only in Quebec but also in other provinces. During the last six months, and particularly lately, we have noted an increasing movement of transfer, and I thought it was my duty to mention it so that the authorities responsible, at both federal and provincial levels, might be aware of it and make the necessary corrections. It is not only important, Mr. Speaker, to note the transfer of head offices from one province to another, but also to note that within the head offices that are not moving, other transfers occur which are equally important and bad for the economy of a province, although in many instances the head offices themselves remain.

INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER KNOWS OF STUDIES CONDUCTED IN QUEBEC

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary.

Is the minister acquainted with the studies made in this connection by the Quebec government and is he aware that by far the majority of those so-called head offices were merely of fictitious companies which in fact had no facilities whatsoever in Quebec?

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I merely want to point out one thing to the hon. member who seems to take lightly the fact that head offices are being moved out of Quebec. Why, if my allegation had not been serious, had been without any basis, would six Quebec ministers have seen fit to deny it so vehemently?

MEASURES TAKEN BY MINISTER TO STOP DEPARTURE OF HEAD OFFICES FROM QUEBEC

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I have another supplementary.

In view of the minister's interest in this matter which he seems to regret, can he tell us what steps he intends to take to counter those famous transfers?

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, may I say to the hon. member that if he had, as I hope he did, studied some of the statements I made publicly at seven or eight conferences where I was invited to speak, he would know that I insisted strongly on the situation. In particular, I urged English Canadian firms now in Quebec not to abandon it, and not only that, but to continue investing there if they feel that Quebec should remain within Confederation.

[Mr. Lessard.]

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REFERENCE TO PRIME MINISTER'S CONDUCT AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. Knowing him to be a loyal and devoted subject of the Queen of Canada I wonder if he has any observations to make in connection with an exhibition put on by the Prime Minister, shown on CBC television, at Buckingham Palace when the Prime Minister did a caricature pirouette behind the Queen accompanied by, to say the least, unseemly gestures. Has he any observation to make on the propriety of that?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

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ENERGY

OIL—GOVERNMENT POLICY ON EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. As far as we know, it has been the government's policy up until now to cut off oil exports to the United States in 1981 and to reduce them up until that year. The minister has apparently proposed to Dr. Schlesinger that Canada might guarantee exports of oil to the United States for five years subject to certain conditions. Has the Canadian policy now changed, and what are the circumstances or conditions to which the minister was referring in his offer to Dr. Schlesinger?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, it is quite true that Dr. Schlesinger and I talked about the question of supplying the northern tier refineries through a continuation of Canadian oil or possibly through other methods, including "yo-yoing" the Trans-Mountain Pipeline, the Kitimat application and another application, which may appear before the United States regulatory authorities, for a pipeline from Cherry Point paralleling the Canadian border. We explored Canadian policy on the basis of being able to make Canadian supplies available to the Americans on a secure oil basis; let us say swapping secure oil for secure oil. We also examined the possibility of using the potential of the Wabana iron ore mines and the franchise arrangement granted by the Newfoundland government to Wabanex for an oil storage facility which would be used perhaps to provide that kind of security for Canadian users.

MINISTER'S ASSESSMENT OF FOOTHILLS' PIPELINE PROPOSAL

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, in the minister's same memorandum he refers to the Foothills Pipeline Limited proposal for a pipeline to bring gas from the Mackenzie Delta, and before receiving the Berger Report or any other report the minister has apparently concluded that