

as a result of this substantial increase in petroleum prices or whether there is simply a partial thaw, and if it is just a partial thaw does the government intend to determine the amount of increase in retail prices that would be justified?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): As I said to the hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker, I intend to make an announcement covering both the eastern market and any other possible changes on November 1.

Mr. Stanfield: Will the announcement to be made by the minister on November 1 indicate what will happen to gasoline and other petroleum product prices in the rest of Canada west of the province of Quebec? Does he intend to indicate, for example, that prices of petroleum products in Ontario and western Canada will increase by an amount corresponding to the increase in the east?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, my statement on prices will be quite full.

OIL—PROJECTED INCREASE IN DOMESTIC PRICES IN LIGHT OF LATEST VENEZUELAN INCREASE

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. On the basis of the minister's statement yesterday that the announcement made by this company yesterday of a one cent per gallon increase was based on the increase announced by Venezuela on September 1, or earlier is he in any position to project what might be the increase in a month's time, say based on the 56 per cent increase in the price of crude announced by Venezuela this past week?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Not at the moment, Sir. I think we will have to keep a close watch on the landed cost of oil at Montreal to make a more precise evaluation of the impact on the domestic price in Canada that this would cause.

SECURITY OF OIL SUPPLIES FROM MIDDLE EAST

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact he has said he has now contacted all of the Arab states that export oil to Canada, can he report to the House whether or not Canada will have security of supplies from all of the exporters in the Middle East?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I hope so.

Mr. Nystrom: In view of the very ambiguous answer of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, can he tell us when we will know for sure whether or not Canadians can expect security of supplies?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, in this world most things are uncertain. I express once again the hope that Canada will continue to receive the oil which it usually gets from its sources abroad.

Oral Questions

DETERMINATION OF EFFECT ON COST OF LIVING OF INCREASES IN PRICES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS—ACTION TO OFFSET

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact the increase in the price of Venezuelan crude and the breaking of the voluntary freeze on prices by one oil refinery will contribute substantially to the consumer price index by increasing the cost of fuel, gasoline and so on and also contribute to the increased cost of food production, what steps is the minister taking to determine the effect this will have on the cost of living in Canada, and what steps is the government taking to mitigate this increase?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, I am following the situation closely, and I am co-operating with them closely in their efforts in this matter.

Mr. McGrath: With great respect, Mr. Speaker, and in view of the fact that this will contribute substantially to the cost of living in an area of the country where it is now higher than in any other part of the country—I am referring specifically to the Atlantic provinces—does the minister intend to have this matter looked into with a view to providing the government with advice on action to offset this increase in the cost of living in the Atlantic provinces?

Mr. Gray: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

POSSIBILITY OF INCREASE IN WAGE OFFER TO NORTHWEST TERRITORIES NURSES BECAUSE OF WORKING CONDITIONS AND COST OF LIVING—DANGER PAY

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the high cost of living in the north, and in view of the adverse conditions under which nurses in the Northwest Territories frequently work, is the Treasury Board thinking of substantially increasing its wage offer to these people to bring their pay levels at least to parity with those of nurses under western provincial jurisdiction?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1440)

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the pay arrangements for nurses have recently been determined by an arbitrator appointed by agreement of the parties. I think the hon. gentleman is aware that with respect to nurses serving in the north there are special allowances that are periodically reviewed to take into account changing cost of living standards.