

Oral Questions

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Dairy Commission has instructions to proceed under certain guidelines in regard to developing a policy. I have said to the House that we are going to develop a policy not for five years but for as long as there is need for a dairy industry in Canada, and a day.

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[Translation]

ENERGY**GASOLINE AND FUEL OIL—IMPENDING PRICE INCREASES BY COMPANIES—CONSULTATION WITH MINISTER**

Mr. Jean-Marie Boisvert (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Can he tell the House whether the big oil companies, and more specifically Texaco Canada Limited, were in touch with him as regards the coming increase in the price of gasoline and heating oil, which increase is due to take effect as early as this coming weekend?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry but I did not hear all the hon. member's question; could he repeat it?

Mr. Boisvert: Mr. Speaker, could the minister tell the House whether the big oil companies, and more specifically Texaco Canada Limited, got in touch with him concerning the coming increase in the cost of gasoline and heating oil, which increase is due to take effect as early as this coming weekend?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I must say that I had no personal contacts with those companies but the officials of my department have received communications from private companies. In this regard, as the hon. member will have noticed, a few statements were reported in the press to the effect that the companies will have to maintain prices until May 15.

With regard to Texaco in particular, I will have to study the situation with my officials after which I will be glad to report to the hon. member.

Mr. Boisvert: Could the minister say what measures he has in mind to make oil companies abide by the 30-to-45-day moratorium requested by the minister in his telegram to the companies?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, we shall take the same measures that we have been taking for the past seven months with the addition of a limitation of subsidy payments applicable in eastern Canada if oil companies do not abide by my request.

[Mr. Jarvis.]

INDUSTRY**OBSERVANCE BY UNITED AIRCRAFT OF AGREEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT RESPECTING SUBCONTRACTS**

Mr. Jacques Olivier (Longueuil): I should like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Can he confirm to the House whether the United Aircraft Company, whose 5,000 employees are now on strike, complies with the terms of contracts signed by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and that company, so that subcontracts may not be given to foreign firms and that the work be done in Canada?

[English]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge the company has discharged its obligations.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES ON PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT TO CLEAN UP GREAT LAKES**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs relating to the agreement signed by the United States and Canada some two years ago, hopefully to clean up the Great Lakes. Now that President Nixon has either impounded or vetoed the funds voted by Congress which would have been of some assistance in this regard, is the Secretary of State for External Affairs considering making representations to Dr. Kissinger or to the President in regard to reviewing the agreement which was signed and which seems to be frustrated at this time?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is our hope that there will shortly be a meeting to review progress under the Great Lakes agreement, at which time we will make our views known. If I meet Dr. Kissinger before that time, I will express the same views to him.

LAKE ONTARIO WATER LEVEL—SUGGESTIONS BY INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION RESPECTING CONTROL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of the Environment. As I understand it, the International Joint Commission, after some 10 years of study and spending some \$6 million, came up with two suggestions: one was modification of the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, and the other was a further study of the St. Lawrence River system and how Lake Ontario water levels could be better controlled without flooding Montreal.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member ask his question. It would be helpful if questions, and also the replies thereto, were short, as I suggested the other day. I am sure the hon. member has now reached his question.