

*Oral Questions*

those of the Atlantic area, and I am sure he has very much in mind the considerations to which the hon. member refers.

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[Translation]

**INDUSTRY****TEXTILES—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON REPRESENTATIONS FOR AID**

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Following the question I asked him two weeks ago and following the questions asked by many colleagues, including the hon. member for Vaudreuil, last Friday, concerning the very difficult situation in the textile industry where, as everyone knows, layoffs are more and more frequent, is the minister prepared to inform us of the representations he or the officials of his department received last week and to announce immediate measures to revive that sector of the economy?

[English]

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, members of the industry have met with the Textile and Clothing Board. I have met with the Textile and Clothing Board and expect to have more to say at the end of this week.

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[Translation]

**TRADE****PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH TRADING AGENCY—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Considering that the very recent visit of the Prime Minister of Iran allowed us to notice once again the inefficiency of our trade structures, does the government intend to set up a trading agency which would channel the demands for supply and services which, if necessary, would gather financial and technical areas relating to trade and marketing?

[English]

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to connect trading society, which is what I heard in the translation of the question, with the subject of textiles mentioned in the previous question. If the hon. member is referring to a trading company, the federal government does not plan at present to form a trading company. If the hon. member was referring to efforts to interest Canadian businessmen in selling to Iran—yes, we have plans and we have been making strong efforts to interest the Canadian business community in the enormous business opportunities in Iran.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

**ENERGY****OIL—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON PARTICIPATING IN SYNCRUDE PROJECT**

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the discussions which took place this week end between representatives of the Canadian government and Syncrude, may I ask what has been the outcome of those discussions? I ask this particularly in view of the statement which the minister made over CBC television Saturday night in which he seemed to be very pessimistic about the possibility of developing the Alberta oil sands. He suggested we would increasingly have to depend on imported oil. Can the minister give us the results of those discussions and what decisions he means to take with respect to the government's future conduct in this field.

● (1510)

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I regret I cannot do so today. I hope to be in a better position to do so tomorrow.

**STUDY OF SYNCRUDE PROJECT BY ENGINEERS—REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION**

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister about the study which was completed about three weeks ago by some 80 engineers. Has the minister seen this study with regard to the cost of the whole Syncrude project? Would it be possible for members to have access to that report to see whether these costs are being inflated in order to frighten the government away from the hope the minister expressed of the possibility that the federal government might become a financial participant in this program?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I, personally, am not familiar with the study in question. I will make an inquiry to see by who it was made and what availability there is.

**POSITION OF ALBERTA ON POSSIBLE FEDERAL PARTICIPATION IN SYNCRUDE PROJECT**

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** May I ask the minister whether there have been any approaches by him or his department to the government of Alberta regarding the possibility of federal participation in the development of the oil sands, and whether the Alberta government has refused to agree to federal participation.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the question has been discussed a number of times over the past months. We have in particular indicated there are federal funds available specifically for this purpose and that research in this area in particular represents a high federal priority. This has not evoked any response from the province of Alberta. Indeed, the provincial treasurer for the province of Alberta, as recently as today, stated that that government had