

Oral Questions

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Is that what you are referring to?

An hon. Member: You have the wrong committee.

An hon. Member: And you have the wrong department.

Mr. Hees: Turn on your earpiece.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May we have order, please. It seems to me the minister was not given much of a chance to answer the question.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, I will simply repeat my question. Has his department designated a representative or representatives to serve on the technical advisory committee on petroleum supply and demand and, if so, will he give the House the names?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I do not know if there is one person or more than one. Many persons serve on many committees.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): You know, it is so long since members opposite have been the government that they do not know how these things work. There are many committees. I will have to inquire as to the name of the member and I will report back to the hon. member.

Mr. Hees: It was never like this in the old days, Jean. We knew where the boys were.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: You are saturated with guile.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. My understanding is that the hon. member for Vegreville has the floor.

Mr. Mazankowski: In view of the minister's answer, Mr. Speaker, and his knowledge of the committee, can he indicate to the House whether his representative or representatives have been attending meetings regularly and, if so, have they been reporting directly to him?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I will inquire of the representatives and make a full report.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVE OF DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY AND SERVICES TO SERVE ON TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question, and perhaps the direction of this question will ensure that we do not strike out completely over there. I direct the question to the Minister of Supply and Services. Does he have a representative of his department who is concerning himself with the problems confronting Canadians in respect of the oil shortage? If so, what is his name, what is his profession, and does he report regularly to the minister?

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Certainly, Mr. Speaker. Not just one person but a good many of them are at our disposal, depending on the nature of the problems to be discussed.

[English]

EFFECT OF POWERS OF ENERGY SUPPLIES ALLOCATION BOARD WITH RESPECT TO POLLUTION CONTROL STANDARDS AND PROVINCIAL PERMITS

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Can he assure the House that the provisions of Clause 24 of Bill C-236, whereby the Energy Supplies Allocation Board is empowered to override environmental laws, will not apply to pollution control standards or to permits issued by provincial governments?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot assure the hon. member of that. However, we are working very closely with provincial authorities and we have the closest liaison possible with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that over some years this government by its own neglect has drifted into this energy crisis—

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should ask his question.

Mr. Fraser: In view of the fact that for a good number of years some hon. members, including members on the government side, have worked very hard to establish good environmental laws, can the minister advise whether Clause 24 will apply? Will he make a statement to make it clear to the House that environmental standards are not going to be sacrificed across this country just because of an energy shortage in some parts, and will he tell the House why the power to regulate relaxation of environmental law is given to five appointed officials without any provision for appeal or public discussion?

● (1440)

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is correct in suggesting that that clause can suspend environmental standards. At the same time, I know of no existing federal or provincial legislation which will in fact be overridden.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I seek the co-operation of hon. members. We are not moving very quickly this afternoon. The hon. member will be recognized for a supplementary and then I will see the hon. member for Skeena.

Mr. Fraser: In view of this abdication of responsibility, can the minister advise whether as Minister of the Environment he has an arrangement or any provision whatsoever whereby he can veto a decision of this group of five