

and general public understanding of the issues involved. Of course, if we are to regard the hon. member's knowledge in this area as being representative, there is a great deal to be done in the way of information.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Calgary South for a supplementary and then the hon. member for York South.

**Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact the energy statement this week will be merely a presentation of relevant data rather than a policy proposal, can the Prime Minister explain why over a year ago the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, referring to the urgency of this problem, said that the federal government was evolving an energy policy to meet the fast changing circumstances of the seventies?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will allow the Prime Minister to reply to the question, but when a member asks a member of the government or the Prime Minister to explain a statement made some time ago, that is debate rather than seeking of information. Having said no, the Prime Minister will be recognized for the purpose of replying briefly.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the answer, of course, lies in what has been said repeatedly by the minister and myself, namely, that an energy policy is made up of many elements. Many elements of such a policy have been made and stated by the government. A few weeks ago the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources stated a policy with regard to export controls on gasoline and heating fuels. What is expected now is that the public will look at the totality of the facts, including the policies we have in place, and be prepared to discuss with the government a new over-all policy for the future.

**Mr. Bawden:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the nothingness of the facts in the minister's report, which I have looked over, will the minister state what budget went into the preparation of this report, what budget is going into the distribution of this report, and what his future plans are in this regard?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the hon. member wait because the document he has in his hand is not the report.

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### ELECTION EXPENSES

#### REQUEST THAT BILL BE PASSED BEFORE SUMMER RECESS

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to either the Prime Minister or, perhaps more appropriately, the President of the Privy Council. It arises out of a subject about which I wrote the Prime Minister, with a copy to the President of the Privy Council. Is consideration being given to taking immediate steps

### Oral Questions

to see that the bill on election expenses, introduced by the President of the Privy Council last Friday, will be passed into law before we recess for the summer?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, as far as the government ranks are concerned, we hope this will be the case. We do not know how long parliament will be willing to sit this summer. We have indicated a series of measures which are urgent and must be dealt with before the summer recess.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** I hope we can conclude from these reactions that there is a general disposition to get this legislation through quickly.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** I think that would be more readily demonstrated if the Conservative opposition behaved in a more effective way in the future than they have in the past.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to understand some of the Conservative hilarity on the subject. I have a supplementary question for the President of the Privy Council. In a statement on television some time ago the Leader of the Official Opposition indicated support for a bill such as the minister has introduced and I have done so on behalf of my colleagues and myself. Will the President of the Privy Council undertake immediate discussions with the House leaders of the other parties to see if we can arrange for a limited debate on second reading and generally expedite the passage of this bill?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I have already raised the matter with the other House leaders. It is my understanding that following consultations that may take place in the party caucuses it will be possible later in the week for me to know whether there is any disposition to send the bill to committee rather quickly with a short debate. If that were possible, and if the committee could facilitate the progress of the bill, we could proceed to its passage before we rise for the summer adjournment. However, that bill is competing for attention, as the hon. member knows, with a number of other bills, some of which are not yet in committee. We have to work out some way of dealing with all of them while still being able to rise for a reasonable summer adjournment.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Would the government House leader give serious consideration to bringing this in at a time when all members would be aware it was before the House, say around the third week in July?

**Mr. MacEachen:** No. I would prefer, if possible, to bring it on toward the end of next week.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!