

Inquiries of the Ministry

with respect to our oil and energy policies. We are pursuing full negotiations with our United States counterparts in that regard. The term "continental oil policy" means different things to different people. I am not quite sure just what it means to my hon. friend, but we have been exploring the fullest possible access for Canadian oil to be exported to the United States market. That is the purpose of our discussions and the Canadian posture in this regard.

Mr. Woolliams: I thank the minister for his statement and I hope he is successful in this regard. I wish to follow through with the supplementary question I directed to the Prime Minister. I asked whether this is the policy of the government and whether the discussions with the United States with regard to the export of crude petroleum and natural gas involve the export of water from Canadian rivers and other sources?

Mr. Greene: There have been no discussions with respect to the export of water, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I asked the Prime Minister a question which was referred to the minister. Therefore I ask the minister this important question. Is the export of natural gas being left entirely to the provinces for decision or is the federal government taking an interest in permits to export natural gas with a view to raising the ceiling on the amount of oil imported from Canada by the United States?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, the export of natural gas is under the authority, control and jurisdiction of the National Energy Board. We have not considered in our discussions with the United States, and I do not think it should be done, the question of using gas as a weapon in order to achieve a greater oil market. We have been discussing mutual energy policies in general, which include gas, oil, coal—the full complement of energy. We are quite prepared to discuss with our United States friends all these items in concert for the greatest benefit of the producers in Canada as well as Canadian people generally.

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): A supplementary question concerning the pricing of natural gas. In view of the indication that because of the demand from the United States the price of natural gas may rise in
[Mr. Greene.]

Canada, is the minister considering a two-price policy for natural gas to maintain a preferred price in Canada?

Mr. Greene: We have not considered such a policy, Mr. Speaker. I doubt very much whether an efficient industry able to compete in the United States market as well as our own could be conceived on a two-price system, but certainly we will take the hon. member's suggestion into consideration.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): What about automobiles?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO WHITE PAPER

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): My question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the Speech from the Throne it was stated that white papers would be presented as part of a comprehensive revision of government policy on a number of subjects, including external affairs and defence. Is this comprehensive white paper on external affairs in the course of preparation, and how soon may we expect it in the House?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The answer to that question is yes. The question we have not decided is whether there will be one or more papers; I expect there will be more than one.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

PLYWOOD PRICE INCREASES—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. J. G. Lind (Middlesex): My question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Is he aware of the situation that is developing in the plywood industry which will have the consequence of inflating the cost of shelter or housing across Canada, since manufacturers of fir plywood are increasing their prices by 5 to 10 per cent on sheathing and finished grades of plywood? Will the minister have his department investigate this exorbitant increase?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I have not seen the report to which my hon. friend's question refers. I appreciate his deep concern about the price of plywood, which he has expressed to me on a number of occasions, and I will see that my officials look into the matter.