

or any other country until the matter has first been submitted to the House of Commons for consideration?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is fair to point out, if the hon. member is referring to General Lincoln's remarks, that he said precisely what I have just said to the House. The discussion is with regard to security of supply. I would be quite prepared to discuss the security of supply question, as, indeed, I would all energy questions, in the House or, more appropriately, in the relevant committee as these questions arise.

**Mr. Douglas:** A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for one last supplementary and then recognize the hon. member for Calgary North.

**Mr. Douglas:** Having in mind that we have been waiting some four years for a statement on the government's national energy policy and having in mind that the crisis in the United States has now brought this matter to a head, may I ask the minister whether the government would be prepared to reconsider the motion I moved a few minutes ago, which the government vetoed, and set up a special committee of the House to look into this matter to which the minister and the chairman of the National Energy Board could give further information in order to assuage the fears and concerns of the people of Canada?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I would be delighted to assuage those fears by repeating, as I have for the last several days, that we are of the opinion that there is no danger to Canadian energy supplies, either oil or natural gas, arising from either the short-run problem in the United States or on a longer term basis. Therefore I would make the point that I do not think it is helpful to the Canadian viewpoint to keep repeating that this is a danger to us. In our opinion there is no danger, and the actions of the National Energy Board in reserving against present and future needs have been effective. I would be quite prepared to discuss this matter in the standing committee that deals with it under the appropriate framework provided by the estimates.

#### ASSESSMENT OF RESERVES OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS BY NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the chairman of the National Energy Board came before the Miscellaneous Estimates Committee in reference to the matter of energy he said there was no assessment as to reserves of crude petroleum and natural gas. Has there been any change in that data? Has there been any study in order to bring forward the reserves of the Arctic so that the facts may be made known to the people in charge of this matter?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the hon. gentleman is quoting the chairman correctly. As he knows, in its decision of November, 1971 the board specifically made an assessment of natural gas reserves and arrived at the conclusion that there should be no

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further exports to the United States. I would think it would be fair to say with regard to both oil and natural gas that there is an informed and precise assessment by the board and the board has acted on this in dealing with natural gas. At the moment, of course it does not control exports of oil.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, I do not want to argue with the minister but if he will check volume five or six of the committee reports I think he will find exactly what I have said. As this matter has been raised by other members today and as there is some question about the nation's reserves of crude petroleum and natural gas, will the minister now say to the House that he will get the committee together so that the officials and the chairman of the National Energy Board can be brought before that committee in order that we may see what data exists at present regarding reserves and be able to know what we are talking about?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I will repeat for the third time that I would be delighted to meet the committee and discuss this matter just as soon as it is established and the estimates are before it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Before recognizing hon. members for additional supplementaries on this question the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Portneuf and then perhaps have three or four additional supplementaries on this subject.

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[Translation]

#### TRANSPORT

##### QUEBEC—REPRESENTATIONS BY UNION LOCAL TO AVOID LAYOFFS

**Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

Could he tell us whether the leaders of the Quebec local of the Canadian Transportation Employees Union have made representations to avoid dismissals as a result of a burdened budget and if so, is he in a position to tell us whether steps have been taken so that workers who have been in the employment of the Department of Transport for three years will not be out of work?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is yes. The department is now considering the problem.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North on a supplementary to the previous question.