

If, as he says, the effects of the oil price increase are inevitable, has the government made any assessment in order to be able to tell us when those effects will be felt? If so, how does the government intend to mitigate these effects, and will the one-price system for oil be maintained in this country?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, the one-price system for oil is fundamental to the government's policy, just as the whole process of moving up to international prices in a graduated and manageable way is also fundamental to our policy.

The last time we moved to slow down price increases we were attacked by the opposition as if our action was some kind of an election ploy. It is about time the opposition stood up and told us and the Canadian people where it stands on this issue.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

NARCOTICS

MEASURES TO CURB USE OF NARCOTICS IN VANCOUVER, B.C.—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice.

In light of the findings of the British Columbia drug commission according to whose report there has recently been an increase in the use of drugs by high school students in Vancouver, can the minister tell the House whether he has discussed or intends to discuss the issue with the British Columbia attorney general in order to find a solution to the problem?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I have not met with the attorney general of British Columbia since my appointment to the justice portfolio. However, I had the opportunity to meet him a few weeks ago on which occasion we had a few words on the issue of drugs in British Columbia, but not specifically on the problem referred to by the hon. member.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT MEETING—DISCUSSIONS WITH
FRANCE

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister and it relates to the Prime Minister's visit to France last week.

Can the Deputy Prime Minister confirm whether the Prime Minister was able to make any headway regarding the idea of a Francophone summit meeting, or whether the government of

Oral Questions

France does not really recognize the Government of Canada as a Francophone government and is insisting that the province of Quebec be represented as the delegate, or member, from North America at any proposed summit meeting before the government of France would agree to participate?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell the hon. member whether this particular subject matter was raised between the President of France and the Prime Minister, although I do know that their meeting was very constructive.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: All two minutes of it.

Mr. MacEachen: I add, by way of clarification, that the suggestion contained in the latter part of the hon. member's question would be entirely unacceptable to Canada and to my knowledge certainly has not been advanced by France.

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CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

CO-ORDINATOR TO ENSURE MAXIMUM USE OF RAIL CARS TO
MOVE GRAIN

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

Has the minister discussed with the relevant parties in the grain trade the possibility of the government's appointing a grain co-ordinator or somebody who would have jurisdiction to sort out the mess in which grain transportation has found itself in western Canada?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, that subject did come up at the senior transportation meeting which I chaired in Ottawa last week. I think there was a strong feeling among the participants at that meeting that much could be accomplished by some hard-hitting, direct contact in meetings like that, and that that might be preferable to putting another agency in position, even an agency under the name of controller. However, we did agree to meet again early in the new year, and I will certainly keep an open mind regarding the right solution, depending on what progress is made.

● (1452)

Mr. Murta: Mr. Speaker, the minister has indicated that he is favourably disposed to thinking about the whole question or the idea of a grain transportation co-ordinator with the power necessary at least to sort out some of the problems in the grain transportation industry at the present time.

In relation to a grain transportation co-ordinator, when will the minister be prepared to make a statement? What time in January? Will it be in the early part of January, or at the Palliser Wheat Growers' meeting at which I understand the minister will be speaking? Is he prepared to make a statement and inform western Canada whether this is a real solution to the problem as he sees it at the present time?