

*Oral Questions*

technically import some oil into Canada on the East Coast while we are able to do some exporting from the West Coast.

● (1130)

I see no short-term threat in relation to oil supplies as a consequence of the problem in the area. First, there are very substantial reserves around the world at the present time. There is, as the Hon. Member states, an international organizational agency that provides for a sharing scheme, of which this scheme can be triggered if a shortage occurs. That further protects our interest.

I want to say that we are concerned from the point of view of urging and supporting other nations in opposing the spreading of the conflict. We, of course, have an export embargo on arms and war supplies to both Iran and Iraq. We certainly join with other nations in doing everything to prevent the spread of the conflict.

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**ENERGY**

## FORECAST OF OIL SUPPLY SHORTAGES

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, let me warn the Minister of International Trade, and bring to his attention the possibility of an oil crisis in Canada in the near future. Perhaps he will be interested to know that at the recent National Energy Board hearings—the Energy Board is to give a report on Canada's oil supply and self-sufficiency in a few weeks—Shell Canada maintained that the last year for Canada's self-sufficiency will be 1985, and that imports will be necessary after that until the year 2000. The reason is mainly that the Hibernia and the Beaufort Sea Supplies will not come on stream until 1997. That will leave us a shortfall, or an oil gap if you like, between 1985 and the 1990s of 600,000 barrels a day. What plans does the Government have to fill this oil gap in the event of a potential crisis for Canada?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I am not able to confirm the exact statistics which the Hon. Member presents, as being totally authentic. I do agree it is quite possible that there would be an interim period before new major oil supplies come on stream when Canada could be a net importer, but not to the same degree as we were a few years ago. The dependence on imported oil would be on a much smaller basis. In the meantime we are self-sufficient. I think our needs, if we do encounter the necessity of importing, can very well be managed from those sources with which, through Petro-Canada and through private oil companies, we have ongoing contractual relationships.

## HIBERNIA OIL FIELD AND ALBERTA TAR SANDS

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister for International Trade a further question with respect to this potential oil gap, which Shell Canada calls a real oil gap, in the near future.

The Minister must be aware that the two great areas for oil in Canada are Hibernia, and a place where we have Saudi Arabian type oil, namely the tar sands which are located in the western provinces.

I want to ask the Minister a question with respect to these two areas. First, concerning Hibernia. Could the Minister indicate to the House whether he feels we are in a position where we have put the political disputes behind us so we can get on with the development of Hibernia? Second, with respect to the tar sands, given that the Albertan economy is so down right now, would the Minister be prepared to recommend to the Cabinet that there be a national effort, a commitment now, to develop the enhanced oil recovery and the tar sands projects of Alberta?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the Hon. Member is taking me beyond the jurisdiction of the Department of External Affairs and into the field of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I will respond to the extent that it relates to the necessity for importation and to the extent it affects exports. There is no question but that Hibernia is a tremendous future source of hydrocarbons for the Canadian economy, and that the tar sands are a treasure trove for present and future generations in this country. But I do not think the Hon. Member should underestimate the potential for additional oil recovery in many areas—perhaps on a smaller basis in any one area, but in many areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan. I think he will find, with the passage of time, that we will have many sources of production in those provinces beyond those that already exist. Of course there is also the potential for increased gas production from the Member's own province.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Order.

**Mr. Regan:** It is also interesting to contemplate the ways in which gas may be used as a substitute for oil in subsequent times.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Gas is being used now.

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**ESTIMATES**

## ATTENDANCE OF MINISTER OF ENERGY AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister for External Relations in his capacity as the Acting Prime Minister. It is appreciated that the President of the Treasury Board told us to ask questions of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The problem is that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, after setting May 24 as the day on which he would be before committee, is now refusing to appear before any of the estimates committee meetings prior to May 31 when Estimates must be reported to the House. Is there any way in which his senior colleague in the Cabinet can bring the