

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

QUEBEC—NECESSITY FOR RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF OIL—  
NEED FOR MERCHANT MARINE

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Quebec Premier Bourassa stated only a week ago that there would be no oil or energy shortage in Quebec. Therefore, why did the Prime Minister bring up the scare-crow of voluntary restrictions to scare the population last night, and what was the purpose of such action?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is a difference between what the government of Quebec said and what the hon. member says.

About a week ago, I had the opportunity to talk with Mr. Bourassa and I can assure the hon. member that the Quebec premier does not want to promise to the population of Quebec that there will be enough oil next winter. Maybe the hon. member is referring to a statement made much earlier by another minister before he knew all the facts. I should like to add, Mr. Speaker, that the Toronto meeting is precisely aimed at acquainting the provincial ministers, including those from Quebec, with all the facts, with the present situation and with the comments of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) about the Portland pipeline, all of which Quebec will have to know before it can promise its population that it has nothing to worry about next winter.

**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question.

Last night, the right hon. Prime Minister said that we have sufficient oil supplies and that there will be no shortage in that regard, but that transportation, the pipeline, etc., were the most important problems at the present time. Then, last night, during the CBC television news, we saw that a Greek tanker, with oil on board from Vancouver, will use the Panama Canal on its way to Montreal or Portland. Did the right hon. Prime Minister realize then the importance for Canada to possess its own merchant marine for the transportation of our goods in Canada?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will refer to the statement made by the Minister of Transport, he will realize which direction the government is taking concerning a merchant marine. He will find that it is also important to have a pipeline, for the distance is shorter from Toronto-Sarnia to Montreal through a pipeline than from the west coast to Portland via the Panama Canal.

[English]

METHOD OF CONTROLLING OIL PRICES AFTER FREEZE  
LIFTED—POSITION OF PROPOSED PIPELINE EXTENSION  
TO MONTREAL

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Prime Minister two questions arising out of the statement he made last night and what he has said today. I should like something to be clarified. Will the price freeze on petroleum products be lifted at the end of January, as set out by himself and the minister? The

[Mr. Speaker.]

Prime Minister said that the price would not be identical with the world price. What mechanism has the government in mind, or what alternative measures does it have to control prices for the protection of the consumer? If he cannot tell us today, when will the wraps come off this unknown policy?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I just answered a similar question by the Leader of the New Democratic Party. I indicated that on Monday we will be giving part of the answer to that, but I think the rest of the answer will come when we introduce legislation relative to the question of the export tax and the pricing of oil.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I have a further question, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Prime Minister dealt with the Montreal pipeline and said it had been announced. We have had various announcements about this pipeline. As the pipeline is important to ensure supply, how far has the pipeline project gone? Who is going to build it? When is the project going to commence, and is the government assured of enough steel so that the project can go ahead?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, the pipeline was announced on September 4. Following that announcement the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources have been putting together the answers to the questions asked by the hon. member and they will be announced in the House in the usual way.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member for Calgary North, but there are so many members seeking supplementaries on this subject that I think perhaps we should try to limit them.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, it would seem that this is an unknown policy. Nobody knows the policy. It is something like Alice in Wonderland. When will the wraps come off this project so that the people of Canada will know instead of having to listen to the kind of drivel to which they listened last night?

INQUIRY AS TO DECISION ON WHETHER NATIONAL  
PETROLEUM CORPORATION IS TO BE ESTABLISHED

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Ou'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. As the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources indicated to the committee and to the House that he would be making an announcement before the end of this month on the government's position with regard to a national petroleum corporation, does the Prime Minister's statement last night mean that there will not be an announcement this month?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I did not understand whether the member said that the minister had said he would announce this on Monday. If that is what the member understood—

**Mr. Nielsen:** This month.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Certainly there will be an announcement on that question some time soon.