

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

MARKETING AGREEMENT BETWEEN PHILCO-FORD AND
FLEETWOOD—POSSIBLE CONTRAVENTION OF PROVISIONS OF
ACT

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo-Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce or in his absence to whoever has been delegated to speak on his behalf. I should like to ask the minister whether he is examining the marketing agreement between Philco-Ford Corporation and Fleetwood Corporation, the purpose of which agreement is to remove family home entertainment products from the Canadian market, to see whether this agreement to restrict competition is in contravention of the Foreign Investment Review Act.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I will take note of that question for the attention of the minister.

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COMBINES

MARKETING AGREEMENT BETWEEN PHILCO-FORD AND
FLEETWOOD—POSSIBLE CONTRAVENTION OF ACT

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo-Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Will that minister also examine the particular agreement I am bringing to his attention to see whether, in fact, there is a contravention of the combines legislation in an effort to restrict competition in Canada between these two corporations?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I did not catch the last part of the question. I will look into it in *Hansard* and surely follow it up next week.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED LEGISLATION TO RESTRAIN COMMODITY
SPECULATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I wonder whether the minister or the government are considering legislation to restrain consumer commodity speculation which I suggest is a greedy practice and has a fair amount to do with the high cost of food?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): This question is under study, Mr. Speaker.

Oral Questions

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

ALLEGATION OF BIAS IN REPORTING NEWS EVENTS IN
MIDDLE EAST—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Communications whom I welcome back from the Maghreb. Has the minister studied the very serious allegations of bias and manipulated news reporting of Middle East events by the CBC as documented in an open letter from Mrs. Donna McDuff to the CBC president and made available to all members of this House. Also can he advise if he has inquired of the CBC concerning these allegations and that a prominent CBC officer replied to this citizen's program inquiry by calling her anti-semitic.

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the question is not directed to the proper minister. The one who replies in the House on behalf of the CBC is the Secretary of State of Canada. I can say, however, that when an investigation is indicated, as has been the case in the past, on some aspect of the activities of the CBC, the CRTC can carry it out at the request of a citizen, a member of parliament or any group in Canada.

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[English]

FINANCE

REQUEST FOR TAX AND PRICE CONSIDERATIONS FOR
SYNCRUDE PROJECT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. I think sometime ago the minister or the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources talked about the different scales of taxation for the Syncrude development. Would the minister now, when discussing the Syncrude project consider giving a tax holiday and also allowing the price of that crude petroleum to rise to an economic level so that the participants can afford to develop it and continue to guarantee a supply of petroleum rather than rely on taxpayer's money in the participation where you would likely gamble it on a high-risk and also, at the same time, it would be inefficient.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, my colleague the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources had conversations two or three days ago with the remaining partners in the Syncrude proposal and reviewed with them what they felt in their minds was necessary for the continuation of the project. Insofar as taxation is concerned I gave an undertaking to the Minister of Finance for Alberta when we met a day or so ago on the Syncrude proposition that the tax situation would remain firm. After my budget of May 6, and again after the November 18 budget, I again repeated what I had said that the budgetary provisions and changes would not affect the arrangement I had made with Alberta on Syncrude.