

Oral Questions

POSITION OF VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM
RESPECTING USE—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES—
HOME HEATING OIL SUPPLIES PURCHASED BY
GOVERNMENT

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have some supplementary questions for the minister arising out of his statement last night. In view of the fact that a voluntary restraint program for the use of energy requires the co-operation of the general public as well as provincial and municipal authorities, and in view of the fact that the implementation of such a program would necessarily take some time, I should like to ask the minister whether he is taking steps to initiate the program now so there will be time to educate the public and to prepare organizational needs instead of waiting until an interruption occurs, at which time it may be too late?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Planning in that direction is going ahead, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, would the minister indicate exactly what steps are being taken to promote this program of voluntary restraint in energy use?

• (1440)

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, aside from the remarks I made last night, at the moment there is no publicity program in this regard, but we anticipate that in the relatively early future we will be making recommendations along this line for guidance in respect of energy use in general.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the minister along the same line. Has he raised the issue with all the provinces of Canada or does he plan to deal with it at the energy ministers' conference on November 23? May I also ask him what supplies of home heating oil have already been purchased on government account, where such oil is now being stored, and what plans does the minister have for the distribution of this heating oil purchased on government account?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I cannot refer to any specific contracts at the moment, but my officials and those of the Canadian Commercial Corporation are now involved in this process. I think most of the storage involved will be handled by the Department of National Defence. I regret that I did not catch the first part of the hon. gentleman's question.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I asked whether the provincial premiers are being consulted.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I have had conversations with some of them and I hope to have conversations with the remainder in eastern Canada. I propose to write to the ministers responsible who will be participating in the November 23 meeting to suggest that this item be added to the agenda for that meeting.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Charlevoix on a supplementary question.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix): It is not a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It would perhaps be advisable to allow the hon. member for Charlevoix to ask his question, thus completing the first series and then we will come to the questions relating to the first one asked by the Leader of the Opposition. The hon. member for Charlevoix.

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ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON
POLLUTION FROM SHIPS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON GREAT LAKES AND OTHER
WATERS

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of the Environment related to his statement made today.

The new convention gives the list of the seas where oil spills are absolutely prohibited. Does this convention also provide for the Great Lakes area, or the area referred to a minute ago by the western representatives?

[*English*]

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, this convention essentially applies to foreign owned ships operating outside areas within the jurisdiction of coastal states. Certainly it does not include foreign ships operating in inland waters such as the Great Lakes where Canada, the United States or the two by agreement have absolute authority.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question?

Is the minister in a position to assure the House that the same provisions for ensuring better protection will be applied to internal waters of Canada?

[*English*]

Mr. Davis: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we already have higher standards in respect of waters inside our jurisdiction, and certainly ships operating within those waters are subject to any laws we wish to pass.

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ENERGY

PROPOSED OIL PIPELINE EXTENSION TO MONTREAL—
AVAILABILITY OF PIPE—POTENTIAL COST

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and arises from his answers regarding the pipeline extension. Has the minister's department made any examination of the supply of steel or pipe in view of the present steel shortage and the rapidly accelerating price, and what would be the potential cost of such a pipeline extension, if the government even knows where it is to start, at Toronto or some point farther west?