

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

• (2:30 p.m.)

**ENERGY****CONSULTATIONS WITH UNITED STATES—REASON FOR DISCONTINUANCE**

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Yesterday the hon. Leader of the Opposition asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs about his consultations with the provinces in connection with energy exports, referring of course natural gas and crude petroleum, to the United States, and also with reference to the consultation going on between Canada and the United States. In reply, and I paraphrase what he said at that time, the minister said that the talks between the United States and Canada are not going on at the present time. Would the Prime Minister tell us why it is these consultations have ceased at this time, in view of the fact that the United States is requesting more energy from Canada, and that means the export of natural gas?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Well, Mr. Speaker, they are requesting, and they are indeed buying, more energy from Canada at this time. Concerning the talks themselves, I answered this question about a month ago and gave the reasons for the change. We are not yet in a position to resume them.

**Mr. Woolliams:** May I put this question, Mr. Speaker? I think I can put it very simply. Could the Prime Minister now tell the House why those talks have ceased? Perhaps I could put it even a little more clearly. Have those talks ceased because this is a form of retaliation by the government against the imposition of the surtax by the United States, which is discriminating against western Canada at this time?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The second part of the question, as asked, is argumentative. Perhaps the Prime Minister might reply to the first part of the question.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I will rephrase it then, Mr. Speaker. I did not intend it to be argumentative.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will be recognized for that purpose.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Thank you very much. Could the Prime Minister tell us what are the reasons that those talks have ceased? Is the reason I suggested one of the reasons that the talks have ceased?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member was given an opportunity to rephrase the question. He did not rephrase it, he just repeated it along with his argument. I suggested to him that it was in the form of an argument. Maybe the Prime Minister should be allowed to reply briefly, and then the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Shefford.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Well, Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase it and leave out the last part?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

[Mr. Bell.]

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, I don't think it is argumentative, with the greatest respect.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I allowed the first part of the question. I indicated that I had no objection if the Prime Minister wanted to reply to it.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, there is a certain kind of chicken that lays an egg, and then turns around and eats it. I think that is what the hon. member is doing.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, I am going to treat that answer with the kind of contempt it deserves. I would say to you, with the greatest respect, this Prime Minister needs the kind of defence he got this afternoon, because he is not capable of answering.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I doubt whether the hon. member has improved the situation at all. He asked an argumentative question. It was ruled out of order, and it is still ruled out of order. The hon. member for Shefford.

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[Translation]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****INQUIRY AS TO INTENTION OF GOVERNMENT TO INVITE PRIME MINISTER OF CUBA TO VISIT CANADA**

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

Following the Cuban Prime Minister's decision to visit many countries, has the Canadian government or the Prime Minister invited him to visit Canada, as other communist heads of state have done recently?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, no such invitation was tendered. But, unless I am mistaken, the Prime Minister or President of Cuba, whatever his title may be, has come to Canada before. In fact, he has visited the province of Quebec. He did not come to Ottawa, but he was given a cordial welcome in Quebec.

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[English]

**COMMUNICATIONS****APPLICATION OF BELL CANADA FOR INCREASED RATES—POSSIBLE SUBMISSION BY GOVERNMENT TO TRANSPORT COMMISSION**

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the newest application by Bell Telephone to the Canadian Transport Commission for increased telephone rates, I would like to ask the Minister of Transport if it is the intention of the government to make a submission to the Canadian Transport Commission before the legal deadline of December 10, in order to protect the interests of the Canadian public?