

CONSULTANT STUDY ON CANADIAN COMMUNICATIONS
SATELLITE SYSTEMS

Motion No. 88—**Mr. Skoberg:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the consultant report by Northern Electric Company Limited on Canadian Communications satellite systems undertaken for the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in the fiscal year 1968-69, as mentioned in answer to Question Number 1,323 of the 1st Session of this Parliament.

Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member requested this report on March 11 last; however, its disclosure was prohibited by the agreement under which the company supplied this report to the government. Since that time the contract for Telesat has been awarded and I am therefore pleased now to be in a position to table the report.

Motion agreed to.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR REGARDING CLAIMS TO
OFFSHORE WATERS

Motion No. 141—**Mr. Harding:**

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House copies of all memoranda, letters, etc., exchanged in 1965 between the United States Department of the Interior and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources regarding claims to offshore waters.

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the correspondence which the hon. member has asked for does not exist by reason of the fact that the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources did not come into being until October 1, 1966. I would ask, therefore, that the hon. member withdraw his motion.

Mr. Harding: Agreed, Mr. Speaker.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

RESULTS OF QUESTIONNAIRE CIRCULATED AMONG YOUNG
CIVILIANS AND MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

Motion No. 160—**Mr. Forrestall:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of the results of the questionnaire circulated among young civilians and young members of the Canadian Armed Forces during recent months.

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Defence advises that the survey referred to is still in progress and returns are not yet complete. Statistical analysis can only begin when all returns are in. It is anticipated that this will not be before April 1, 1971. In the circumstances I wonder if the hon. member would be good enough to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Forrestall: Agreed.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining Notices of Motions stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Inquiries of the Ministry

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour who was here. I will await his return to the House.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INVESTIGATION OF INCREASE IN PRICE OF CRUDE OIL

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It arises out of the announcement by two leading oil companies, Imperial Oil Company and the Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company, that they are raising the price of crude oil by 25 cents a barrel. Since it has been anticipated for some weeks that such an increase was to be announced, may I ask the minister if his department or the Prices and Incomes Commission has been looking into this matter? Can he give the House any report? If this matter has not been investigated, will the minister undertake to have an investigation made?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that the hon. member considers that the Prices and Incomes Commission fulfils a useful role in the economy by conducting such inquiries.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Basford: The commission has been looking at a number of fuel price increases. I am not positive that they have looked at the precise announcement to which the hon. member refers. I will determine whether that is the case.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, since the taxpayers are paying for the Prices and Incomes Commission, I thought we ought to find some work for them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Since representatives of the two companies in question have both stated that the increase in price is due to the greater access which has been obtained for Canadian oil into the American market, will the minister undertake a specific investigation to see whether the increased price is due to any increase in costs or whether it is due to the fact that the Canadian price is being tied arbitrarily to the price in the United States?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to refer that to the Prices and Incomes Commission. Of course, the general energy policy is normally the responsibility of the National Energy Board which does not report to me.