

Oral Questions

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we have often called upon the parties to observe requirements of SALT II. Imperfect though it may be, it represents an important area of general agreement and all countries would hope that both sides would respect it.

CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, given that the United States has announced that it will violate the treaty and will use the very instrument it has asked us to test, will the Government, in accordance with what the Prime Minister has just now said, point out to the United States that we cannot and will not test the Cruise missile so long as the United States intends to violate SALT II?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, obviously I do not share my hon. friend's interpretation of what may or may not transpire. That is not our reading of the intent.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

USE OF LOW SULPHUR COAL

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Hon. Minister of the Environment. When may we expect a decision on the use of Canadian low sulphur coal in Canada?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Mines, the Minister of Transport and myself are trying to formulate a decision or response to the task force report which was released on August 20, 1986. I hope that we will be able to make some sort of preliminary decision on the whole question of displacing American high sulphur content coal with low sulphur content coal from western Canada before very long, perhaps before the end of the year.

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ENERGY

GAS EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a single question to direct to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Energy. Perhaps he might be aware that some American companies—

An Hon. Member: There he is.

Mr. Waddell: Sorry, he moved. I will direct my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Is the Minister aware that some American companies have refused to take volumes of gas they are supposed to have taken through the pre-build of the Alaska Highway Pipeline and is he prepared to take up with the American Government the seriousness of this situation considering that the American Government, in order that the previous Canadian Government would approve the pre-build, almost guaranteed that those gas volumes would be taken by American companies?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the issues raised by the Hon. Member; we are monitoring the situation and, in due course, should any action be required, we will certainly act.

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[English]

PATENT ACT

EFFECT OF AMENDMENTS ON DRUG PRICES

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In answer to a previous question I asked the Minister, he indicated that he did not believe Canadian consumers would be charged any more money for the cost of drugs as a result of amendments to the Patent Act. Could the Minister then advise the House whether or not—

An Hon. Member: He's not here.

Mr. Young: He was here a minute ago. I must have scared him off.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

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[Translation]

INSURANCE

INCREASE IN PREMIUMS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): According to Statistics Canada, Mr. Speaker, the profits in the insurance industry have increased 142 per cent over the past six months because of the increase in liability insurance premiums.

My question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Is he going to assume his responsibility and make public immediately the findings of the investigation requested last January by the Official Opposition?