

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

question on the same subject the other day, we have information on how many refunds there have been up to now. We have given the figures regarding those who have already paid back the money. We have also given figures regarding those who have replied and explained what took place and we have settled those files. I suppose that within a few weeks more files will be settled to the satisfaction of all people.

**Mr. Murta:** With regard to the ones that are outstanding, is the government preparing any form of court action against the farmers concerned in this matter? If so, will a statement be made to the House to this effect?

**Mr. Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, I suppose if moneys are owing to the government and those moneys are not repaid by the people involved, some action will have to be taken. I hope all hon. members will agree with us when we suggest that some action will have to be taken to recover those funds.

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**ENERGY****NATURAL GAS—GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION TO ASSURE FAIR PRICE TO WESTERN CANADA PRODUCERS AND TO CONSUMERS EAST OF ALBERTA**

**Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Since Friday's gas export ruling of the National Energy Board confirms the near-monopoly position of Trans-Canada Pipe Lines Limited as a wholesale purchaser of natural gas for consumption outside British Columbia and Alberta, can the Prime Minister indicate if the government is presently considering intervening in the pricing process of the industry to assure a fair return to western Canada's gas producers as well as a fair price to consumers east of Alberta?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will have to take notice of the question. I will be glad to refer it to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources for a reply.

**Mr. Mahoney:** In view of the circumstances already cited, will action by the government of Alberta to manipulate the price of natural gas in order to protect producers and provincial revenues from the Trans-Canada Pipe Line monopoly without regard to prices to be charged to consumers be acceptable to the government?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That question sounds more like an argument than a question.

**CONSULTATION WITH ALBERTA RESPECTING NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES**

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In light of statements made by the Premier of Alberta this weekend and in light of renewed energy negotiations with the United States, will the government agree to ongoing consultations with Alberta on the energy talks under

[Mr. Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean).]

way with the United States? If so, when will such consultations with Alberta begin?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I told the Premier of Alberta when I met him a week or two ago that we would welcome any input from the Alberta government into our information on our policies.

**An hon. Member:** You met him last week.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I had a meeting with him before last week but the hon. member was not aware of it.

**RECONSIDERATION BY NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD OF REFUSAL OF NATURAL GAS EXPORT APPLICATIONS**

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. As requested by the government of Alberta, will the government of Canada request the National Energy Board to reconsider its refusal to allow further exports of natural gas at this time?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, my understanding of the law is that the government is not in a position to ask the National Energy Board to reconsider its refusal. The matter comes before the Governor in Council only when an order for export is approved. When it is denied the government, under the statute as set up, cannot intervene to exercise pressure on the board, which is independent.

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**INDUSTRY****INQUIRY AS TO ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AID**

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of reports that appeared during the weekend, may I ask if it is the government's intention to provide additional aid to private industry to the tune of \$190 million? If so, will the details of such a plan be made known to the House this week?

**An hon. Member:** Raise your right hand!

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Additional aid to what, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Additional to the \$80 million already provided to private industry.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is referring to the GAAP program—I believe the story in the newspapers referred to that—the hon. member should consult the estimates and he will see that we have nothing in mind in that regard. The minister will be able to explain it when his estimates come before the House.

**Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. Has the government approved a further \$158 million assistance plan for Canadian manufacturers who have been hurt by the U.S. import surcharge or other American protective mea-