

Oral Questions

Mr. Railton: Since President Ford recently decided to apply import taxes to crude oil of \$1 on February 1, \$2 on March 1 and \$3 on April 1, how will this affect the export of crude oil from Canadian western provinces to the United States and what difficulties will result from this action for the Canadian oil industry?

Mr. Speaker: Does the minister feel he can answer that question?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I will make every effort, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I would have to say that while, of course, the imposition of the import fee by the United States administration will increase prices to the United States consumer, this will not in any sense result in a drop in the return to Canada from Canadian oil sales to the United States market, nor a drop in the export tax revenue. Indeed, it is very likely that with the escalation of prices internationally, particularly the recent Venezuelan increase, the energy board will be considering whether there should be a further increase in the Canadian export price into the American market in the near future.

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● (1500)

[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE**SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS OF SECTIONS CONCERNING FIREARMS**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I would not like to give the impression that I feel vengeful towards the people who may have made mistakes in their lives, but I think our task as parliamentarians imposes certain duties and this is why I wish to put, through you, a question to the Solicitor General.

Following his recent statements regarding firearms—statements which suggest that these and not the murderers are the criminals—can the minister tell the House if he intends to bring in some legislation to prohibit firearms and convict those who sold them so that, in murder cases, they may be judged and incarcerated if necessary, just as the murderers themselves?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I said in the House yesterday there is a group in my department which is studying the adequacy of our present gun laws. I, personally, believe that stricter gun controls lead to a reduction in crimes involving weapons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allmand: I hope we will have some proposals to put to the House in due course.

[Mr. Railton.]

IMMIGRATION**ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT OF ALIENS—POSSIBILITY OF MORE SEVERE REGULATIONS DIRECTED AT EMPLOYERS**

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. How many aliens are employed illegally in Canada? If the number is as large as has been reported, is the minister considering tougher regulations directed at employers of such persons who presently escape any responsibility by pleading lack of knowledge of the status of these aliens?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I missed the first couple of sentences, but I think I got the gist of the question. First, I do not subscribe to the statement that the number of people in Canada illegally in terms of immigration is as high as has been indicated. I was not a party to that estimate. The fact is we do not know the number who are here illegally. I doubt it very much if anybody could make an accurate forecast, although I think the number is considerably less than about a year ago before the adjustment of status program. Second, among the many options to be considered, I believe it is wise to explore the possibility of perhaps placing a greater onus on employers when hiring visitors who might be here illegally. The act and regulations now provide for prosecution tied around the word "knowingly" employing such people. We are looking at that law to see what might be done.

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TRADE**SUGGESTION THAT PART OF BILL C-2 DEALING WITH FOREIGN INTERFERENCE WITH CANADIAN TRADE BE DEALT WITH SEPARATELY**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Privy Council. In view of suggestions made by this party, and yesterday by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, that Bill C-2 be split and the part dealing with foreign interference in Canadian trade be dealt with in a separate bill immediately, can the minister say whether he intends to proceed with that suggestion? If so, when can we expect that new bill?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be preferable if the members of the hon. member's party would support the government in getting the whole of the bill through this House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, the minister did not answer the question. I insist that he answer the question I asked. Does he intend to split the bill, as suggested not only by this party but by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce? If so, when will he introduce it?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I thought I made it quite clear that I prefer to have the House pass the whole of the bill. I thought the hon. member's party would have been more in