

Oral Questions

the construction of a refinery at Eastport, and whether her officials feel that the new proposals that have now been approved by the State of Maine endanger Canadian fisheries and the environment as a result of the use of Canadian waters for the viability of that refinery? Just exactly where does her department stand in this regard?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, we have been opposed all along to the traffic of heavy oil tankers in the Head Harbour passage. The decision brought down by the Maine Environmental Board last week states very clearly that, although a permit can be given for tankers up to 150,000 tons to be used for that refinery, this is conditional on any permit or other kind of navigational aid which would be furnished by the Canadian government.

Mr. Coates: Mr. Speaker, would the minister give an indication of what the Canadian government's attitude will be if an application were to be submitted in relation to such licensing?

Mrs. Sauvé: Mr. Speaker, our position was and still is that we are opposed to heavy tanker traffic in these waters because we feel this would be damaging to the environment and the important fishery resources in that area.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**SALE OF CANDU REACTOR TO ARGENTINA—SUGGESTED
SIGNING OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AGREEMENT AS
CONDITION PRECEDENT**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in view of the Prime Minister's indication this afternoon that he is not prepared to submit agreements relating to the export of nuclear reactors to the House until after the completion of the deal, in spite of the previous experiences the government has had with India, for example, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether it is the intention of the government to proceed with and complete the deal with Argentina, whether or not Argentina signs a nuclear non-proliferation agreement?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, we have not laid down as a precondition to the sale of a CANDU reactor that the country has to be a member of the NPT. We have, however, insisted upon certain standards of bilateral safeguards which will apply to these materials, technology and equipment supplied by Canada. Presently we are negotiating these safeguards with the Argentinian authorities but we have not concluded these negotiations as at this point.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I take it that the position of the government of Canada is as stated by the Prime Minister, that it is prepared to deal with countries even though they have not signed a nuclear non-proliferation agreement, and the government is not prepared to submit

[Mr. Coates.]

these contracts to the parliament of Canada in advance in spite of all the risks involved of mistakes being made?

● (1500)

Mr. MacEachen: On the first part of the question, Mr. Speaker, the policy with respect to the NPT was stated very clearly, and the hon. gentleman has repeated it with the exception that in all these transactions membership would be an important fact to be weighed. In the case of aid-financed reactors, the question of the NPT will be a precondition. On the second point, we are simply following the practice that the Prime Minister has outlined in putting before the House for approval actions for which the executive has taken responsibility and will appear before the House for that responsibility.

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, which is raised by the question asked by the hon. member for Drummond and the answer by the Prime Minister, a question and answer which constitute a very strong criticism of the procedure committee and, by implication the President of the Privy Council who is the chairman of that committee. I have to say that I understand that this bill and the various reincarnations of it spent far more time within the murky recesses of the cabinet than in the House of Commons. The rules under which the House operates, while not perfect, were rules that were imposed by the Prime Minister by a particularly brutal and shameful form of closure on the House.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my understanding of the question that was put to me by the hon. member for Drummond was that he was appealing to all members of the House. I think the words he used in his question were "to try to get together to modernize parliament". I see nothing in that which is an affront to the committee to which the hon. member opposite refers. On the contrary, I would have thought that, rather than be his usual negative, nasty self, he would look upon that as a constructive approach to reform in parliament.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PRIVILEGE

**MR. COSSITT—COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT OF CBC DURING
RADIO AND TV BROADCASTS**

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege of a most serious nature involving an obvious and direct attempt by the president of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Laurent Picard, to interfere with the democratic political process in this country by influencing and intimidating me as a member of parliament in regard to what I should or should not say in this House.

In the past few days I have exercised my right to raise, as a result of information furnished to me from sources I consider beyond reproach, the matter of the government's