

*Oral Questions*

level have the industrialized countries expressed their opinion? It is surprising to me, if the industrialized nations have been vocal, how little attention their views have received in the international press. I have been following the situation and have found that the only western government, in addition to Canada, which has expressed a view is the government of France, but I have not seen the name of the President of France, of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of West Germany, the names of individual leaders such as the Prime Minister of Japan or the Prime Minister of Britain.

That is the kind of political high-level solidarity that I again urge the Prime Minister to achieve, and I ask him whether he knows—because I do not—to what extent the individual leaders have come out, for example, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic Germany or the Prime Minister of Japan, and whether they have come out individually or have made representations through a lower level in their governments.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** In the case of the countries that have been cited by the hon. member, the positions have been stated very clearly. Whether they have been stated by the heads of government in each case, I do not know at the moment: certainly in some cases they have been. Certainly, also, the statement by the European Parliament was clear, strong and left no question in the minds of the Iranians or of anyone else as to the extent of concern on the part of the participating countries.

As I indicated in my earlier response, we will, naturally, review again to see if there is anything useful that can be added to a very difficult and complex situation by suggesting that heads of government become more dramatically involved as individuals.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I have just one brief supplementary question. Could the Prime Minister tell us whether he, himself, has been in touch with any of the heads of government of the industrialized countries? If he has not, will he consider personally calling these leaders?

Also, in view of the very grave situation—the first international crisis since 1962, in the opinion of the Secretary General—will he consider now taking a lead and at least discharging his responsibility and the responsibility of Canada by asking these leaders, personally, why they find it so difficult to become identified at that high level, with this very grave international breach of law and order?

**Mr. Clark:** I will, first of all, determine whether or not that is the case. If it is, I would naturally be prepared, if Canada's influence would be effective in this regard, to speak to the heads of government involved. For the information of the House, of those listed by members of the opposition I have spoken on this matter only to President Carter.

[Mr. MacEachen.]

**ENERGY****DECISION ON OIL PRICES BEFORE DECEMBER 11 BUDGET—  
MULTINATIONALS NOT PASSING ON REDUCTION IN PRICE**

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question pertaining to oil producing countries. At the press conference prior to the first ministers' conference, the Prime Minister said that a decision on oil prices would be reached preferably at that conference because, as he said, "We can't discuss these things forever". Considering that it is now two weeks to the day since that conference took place, and considering that the oil price decision is probably the most important economic factor influencing the budget which will be brought down on December 11, will the Prime Minister assure the House that a final decision will be reached by him on oil pricing prior to the budget?

● (1425)

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the House that the budget will reflect assumptions which were basic to the proposal put before the first ministers by this government. My hope is that it will be possible for us to have an agreement prior to presenting the budget in the House.

There have been recent exchanges of correspondence between myself and the Premier of Alberta. I expect there will be another meeting fairly soon among the Premier of Alberta, some of his ministers, myself and certain ministers of this government, which I trust will be a significant step toward resolving differences that still remain. After that meeting, naturally I would want to be in touch with the premier of Saskatchewan and the premier of British Columbia who, as representing producing provinces, are most particularly involved and concerned with the questions still at issue.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I consider the short answer to my question would have been a simple no, that the Prime Minister will not assure us a decision will be reached by him by the time of the budget. I find that extraordinary. There have been discussions going on for weeks and months. The Prime Minister indicated, a month prior to the first ministers' conference, that he thought then it could not wait beyond the conference. Now he is saying that we may be into late December or January, and I find that extraordinary.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** He did not say that.

**Mr. Broadbent:** I would like to go on to another aspect of the oil concern Canadians have, and ask the Prime Minister if he has received word from Saudi Arabia, as has the American government, about their concern that the multinational oil companies have not passed on to consumers in North America a reduction in price which was given to the multinationals by Saudi Arabia.

In that context, would the Prime Minister tell the House, considering this reality, that the multinationals are acting simply as middlemen between the oil companies and Canada? Would he not agree, for this very reason, that Petro-Canada