

very best to minimize these effects presently and also in the future. It appears that in respect of the birds which have been affected now there is not too much that can be done for them.

Mr. Lundrigan: Would the minister consider investigating the moves taken on the west coast of the United States where a similar situation existed and where teams were put into the field which did rehabilitate some birds?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is now making a suggestion which he should assume will be taken into account.

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. Does he intend to serve an injunction on Imperial Oil to pay compensation to those who have suffered damages?

Mr. Speaker: That question has already been put.

[English]

ENERGY

POSSIBLE U.S. LIMITATION OF OIL IMPORTS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has the minister received any intimation from the government of the United States that the committee set up a week or two ago by President Nixon is recommending that a curtailment of western Canadian oil shipments to the United States be imposed until such time as Canada is prepared to agree to an energy package deal?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, we have received no official notification, and certainly there is no indication in our conversations, of a cutback on the basis referred to by the hon. member. We have had discussions in regard to the short-term flow of oil into districts one to four. The very large quantities in January and February have made it very difficult for the United States to handle its own oil policy.

We have not to date been able to agree upon a figure which can be included within the program of voluntary controls, but certainly there has been no indication at any time in our discussions that any short-term determination by the United States was con-

Inquiries of the Ministry

tingent upon some longer term deal. The two questions are completely independent one from the other, as I understand it.

POLICY RESPECTING WATER EXPORT

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of discussions taking place with reference to an energy package, may I ask the minister whether it is now the government's considered policy that Canada has more pure water than it can use and would be prepared to sell its surplus water for good hard cash?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that the hon. member is inviting the minister to state a question of policy or to make a statement of policy. I suggest that perhaps this ought to be done more normally on motions.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might rephrase my question. I asked this question hoping to receive a simple yes or no answer on whether this is the policy which the government has adopted. May I ask the minister, in view of the great concern in Canada about a package deal for energy, what items may be included? Is the minister prepared fairly soon to make a statement on motions and, particularly, will he make a statement in respect of the Prime Minister's comment that we have a surplus of water that should be sold for good hard cash?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as of March of last year, if my memory serves me correctly, the President of the United States and the Prime Minister discussed the opening of markets for Canadian energy products in the United States. In respect of petroleum, natural gas, uranium and electricity we have very clear knowledge of the available supplies for Canadian use. There is a very comprehensive survey published—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I respectfully suggest that we are now entering upon a debate. My understanding of the question is that the hon. member asked whether a statement would be made. Perhaps the minister would indicate what his reply is to that question.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I should like to state that the hon. member has misquoted me.