

tomy international law, not written law. If there are reasons to believe that injury was done to international law in this case, the Secretary of State for External Affairs is willing to discuss the matter with the United States government.

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POLLUTION

OPPORTUNITY TO DEBATE PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND UNITED STATES RESPECTING LOWER GREAT LAKES

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry but in his absence I will direct it to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the concern over pollution, will Parliament be given an opportunity to debate proposals concerning a possible Canada-United States clean-up agreement for the lower section of the Great Lakes?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe there is a meeting on the tenth of this month which will be attended by a Canadian minister. When he returns I will consult with him on the opportunity of making a statement to the House.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. May I ask the Prime Minister whether he has looked out of his bedroom window since he got back and noticed the massive pollution in the Ottawa River—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees:—as an example of the fact that the government is doing nothing across the country to deal with pollution?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member has seen the light and will recognize that he is out of order.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

CLOSING OF OTTAWA OFFICE

Mr. Albert Bécharde (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of Transport but, in his absence, I will direct it to his Parliamentary Secretary. In view of the fact that our seats are not very far apart, I dare hope that my question will reach the minister very quickly.

Is it the intention of the Minister of Transport to urge the Canadian National Railways authorities to stop making things difficult for the public and to give up the idea of closing their office at 70 Sparks Street whose services are absolutely necessary?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has put his question. He is making a suggestion or representations to his colleague and obviously, the Parliamentary Secretary's colleague has taken note of them.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

OIL COMPANY PRICE INCREASES—ACTION RESPECTING ALLEGED EXCESS PROFITS

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It is in connection with the report he tabled today from the Prices and Incomes Commission which indicates that Imperial Oil, Shell Canada, Texaco and Sun Oil increased their prices in a manner which resulted in revenues increasing to a greater extent than costs, and that the commission has met with these companies in an attempt to convince them to take remedial action but has not been successful and has therefore brought this matter to the minister's attention. May I ask the minister what action he intends to take in the face of this excessive profit-taking by the oil companies?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): As indicated in the report, the amounts involved were generally small in relation to the total revenue. Nevertheless, I certainly regret that the companies were unwilling, apparently, to take any sort of compensatory action. As a result we are examining a number of alternatives that arise from the report and which will be announced in due course.

Mr. Saltsman: Can the minister say whether one of the things he is examining is the report of the Alberta government made to the minister in 1969 which recommended that the government intervene in order to restore freedom of enterprise to service station operators? Is he considering taking action as recommended by Alberta?

Mr. Basford: I have already indicated that that report and a similar one from British Columbia and also one from Nova Scotia are being considered by me in terms of revising the Combines Investigation Act.

STEEL PRICE INCREASES—INVESTIGATION BY PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that Dofasco estimates that its latest price increases will add about \$10.50 to the steel cost of a family car, 62 cents to the steel cost of a refrigerator and 64 cents to the cost of a stove, has the minister asked the Prices and Incomes Commission to investigate this inflationary price rise, or could he tell the House what effective action he plans to take to deal with it?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The effective action is the first course of action the hon. member suggested.

NOVA SCOTIA-NEWFOUNDLAND FERRY RATE INCREASE—INVESTIGATION BY PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, perhaps my question is more of a related question. Will the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs under-