

Oral Questions

● (1450)

HEALTH

RESEARCH INTO TREATMENT OF DRUG ADDICTS BY
ACUPUNCTURE

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the great difficulties that arise in successfully treating drug addicts, and the success reported in the use of acupuncture in detoxifying drug addicts as well as in the treatment of drug addiction, is any similar work being carried on through research or otherwise in Canada?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that research is being carried out just now on this subject, but this is an area in which research should be done. Funds are available either through the Medical Research Council of Canada or through the Non-medical Use of Drugs Research Program for such research, provided suitable projects are submitted.

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ENERGY

CLOSING OF CERTAIN REFINERIES BY IMPERIAL OIL

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Having regard to the shortage of refining capacity in Canada and the intention of Imperial Oil to close its refinery in Regina and also, I believe, refineries in Calgary and Winnipeg, has the minister consulted with this company to urge it either not to close these refineries or to delay this action? Has he made a similar approach to any other companies which might have intentions of closing down existing refinery capacity?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): As the hon. gentleman knows, the shortage of refining capacity really arises in the Great Lakes area, and it is in this area that refinery expansion is planned. At the moment it does not appear there would be much to be gained in terms of dealing with the shortage of supply in the east by opening or re-opening refineries in western Canada. My impression is that the time frame of those closings extends beyond the winter, but I shall be glad to check further to see whether the suggestion the hon. member has made could contribute in any way to alleviating the problem.

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IMMIGRATION

OBTAINING OF DEPARTMENTAL DOCUMENTS
CONCERNING JOHN MEIER BY UNITED STATES
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

and Immigration, of which I gave him notice yesterday. In view of the fact internal government documents from the hon. gentleman's department concerning Mr. John Meier, who is a key witness before the Watergate hearings in the United States, have ended up in the hands of the United States Attorney's office, can the minister advise the House who transmitted these documents and what action has been taken?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Meier has made an application for landed immigrant status in Canada. In the course of investigating his application there was a confidential exchange of information between the United States internal revenue service and the Canadian immigration intelligence service, which is a fairly routine matter. The documents provided to the U.S. internal revenue service were clearly marked "not to be reproduced under any circumstances without the prior approval of the Canadian immigration intelligence service". However, they were passed in error by the internal revenue people to a lawyer acting for Mr. Meier. A written apology has been sent to us by the U.S. internal revenue service with an assurance that such a thing will not happen again.

Mr. Reynolds: Is the government, in co-operation with the Nixon administration, retaining the private investigation agency Intertel to keep tabs on Mr. Meier's movements in Canada?

Mr. Andras: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

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ENERGY

INVOKING OF "FORCE MAJEURE" CLAUSE BY
VENEZUELAN COMPANIES SUPPLYING OIL TO CANADA—
GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I have a further question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the *force majeure* clause invoked by companies supplying oil to Canada from Venezuela. In view of the serious consequences for Canada, particularly eastern Canada, can the minister tell us what steps he has taken to ascertain whether this action in cutting down Canadian supplies is justified? What action has he taken? I say to him in all fairness he has given the impression to the House this afternoon that he has done nothing, really, to inquire into this situation and to satisfy himself that this diversion of oil contracted for delivery to Canada is in fact justifiable under international law.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): As I pointed out to the hon. gentleman, the contracts in this regard are made with the Canadian purchaser. We have been in continuous touch with the industry through a liaison committee with regard to supply interruption and the demand situation in Canada, as the hon. gentleman knows, and the action we have taken, through this close liaison, is to identify what the supply situation will be. Perhaps I could remind the hon. gentleman of the actual words I used last night: "We may,