

posals for revenue sharing, in addition to being presented to the conference as a whole, will also mean that Canada is prepared to take advantage of the presence in Geneva of countries that have historic and traditional fishing rights off Canada's east coast and will meet on a bilateral or multilateral basis with those countries to form the basis of what could be a revenue sharing agreement in the absence or breakdown of agreement at Geneva?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the Canadian delegation will be exploring this concept with other delegations. There is a particular working group, as I understand it, that will be dealing with questions of the continental margin and revenue sharing. It is presumably within this particular group that the major discussions will take place. Naturally, when I go to Geneva I expect to hold bilateral discussions with other countries as well as engaging in multilateral discussions.

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### ENERGY

#### NATURAL GAS—AMOUNT OF PRICE INCREASE MINISTER INTENDS TO PERMIT

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. At page 5329 of *Hansard* for last Wednesday the minister said he would use his best efforts to see that the price for Alberta gas moving out of the province was kept well below the \$1.15 per thousand cubic feet which was just given in an arbitration award. The press now reports the minister as saying that he has in mind to raise the well head price from 45 cents per thousand cubic feet to 70 cents or 80 cents per thousand cubic feet. I should like to ask the minister if he intends to have this price range in mind when negotiating with the Alberta government, and can he give the House an assurance that this is the price range that will obtain either as a result of negotiations or of exercising the power he will have when the Petroleum Administration Act is given Royal Assent?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, if I could correct one element, the current prices vary in range. Some contracts are as high as 60 cents per thousand cubic feet, so we are talking about a range of prices. I do not think it would be desirable at this point, when I am hoping to negotiate with the producing provinces on this question, to set out figures in advance that would be targets—

**Mr. Horner:** Do you still believe in fair market value?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I still believe it is useful to have a discussion with the provinces and not in effect to lock in that discussion in advance by setting a specific price. I think the hon. member for Crowfoot would agree with me on that.

### Oral Questions

#### NATURAL GAS—DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXPORT AND DOMESTIC PRICES

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the minister has already named a price to the press, I cannot see why he would not name a price to the House of Commons.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** That is par for the course.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Read the story again.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** The minister was going to make a statement some time ago regarding the export price of natural gas and this was delayed because of the visit of American officials who were requesting that the price increase be phased in. I want to ask the minister now how soon he will be able to make a statement regarding the export price. Does he hope to be able to make a statement regarding the domestic price at the same time and on what date does he anticipate making a statement with respect to the two price ranges?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should distinguish between an informed press speculation and what I may have said. I think it would be desirable not to set a price in advance and I refused to do so. With regard to the export price, I hope to be able to make an announcement on Monday. This is not related in any sense to the domestic price, of course. I expect the decision on the domestic price will take place after full discussion with provincial governments and an announcement certainly will not be made next week.

#### NATURAL GAS—REFERENCE TO STATEMENT ON PRICE ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER IN "GLOBE AND MAIL"

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The statement contained in the *Globe and Mail* of May 1 reads:

In an interview, Mr. Macdonald said he thinks an increase to a well head price of 70 cents or 80 cents—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Would the hon. member please put his question.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I will ask the minister if such an interview took place. If so, this could hardly be described as a speculative story.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Such an interview took place, Mr. Speaker, but I would say that the report does not do justice to what I said.

#### NATURAL GAS—DATE ON WHICH STAGING OF PRICE INCREASE BEGINS

**Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources following the line of questioning raised by the