

auto pact and lessening export sales, would the Prime Minister advise us when a deputy minister will be appointed to this department?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Next week.

**Mr. Stevens:** With the estimates for the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce down from last year, would the Prime Minister tell us whether the department has been in a state of freeze pending a review to determine whether it should not in fact be split up with one part given to DREE and another part to the Department of External Affairs?

**Mr. Trudeau:** I will ask the deputy minister what he thinks about that.

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### ENERGY

ATHABASCA OIL SANDS—LETTER FROM HOME OIL COMPANY—MINISTER'S REPLY AND REQUEST FOR TABLING

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources regarding a letter he received some weeks ago from the Home Oil Company requesting concessions similar to those which have been granted to the Syncrude consortium? In view of the fact that this is the only Canadian-owned oil company that has any immediate prospect of entering the development of the Athabasca oil sands, and in view of the need for supplies of oil to meet the critical situation predicted by the National Energy Board, has the minister replied to the letter from Home Oil Company and, if so, what is the nature of his response and would he be prepared to table the letter in view of the fact that he tabled the letter he received from that company?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to do so. My recollection is that the nature of my response was substantially in the vein of my testimony before the committee.

ATHABASCA OIL SANDS—REQUEST OF PETROFINA FOR PERMISSION TO EXPORT SURPLUS TO UNITED STATES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that a partner of Petrofina of Canada has told the National Energy Board that they may not proceed with the construction of a plant in the Athabasca oil sands unless, among other concessions, they are assured that they will be allowed to export to the United States all the oil that is surplus to Canadian requirements, can the minister assure the House that no such guarantee will be given having regard to the need for Canadian self-sufficiency of oil supplies in the future?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the National Energy Board Act provides for determining the appropriate point to

### Oral Questions

review any exportation. This is a new and additional condition that has not been included within previous applications, and I would think it is a condition that we would not accept.

ATHABASCA OIL SANDS—POSSIBILITY OF NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION PARTICIPATING IN DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the reluctance of many of these companies to enter the Athabasca oil sands project, and in view of the fact that they are imposing more and more conditions, is the minister examining the possibility of the National Petroleum Corporation entering the field, either as a joint venture with any provinces that are interested or on its own?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the National Petroleum Corporation, Petro-Canada, will be entering into Syncrude as a partner.

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[Translation]

### AGRICULTURE

FEED GRAIN—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE MILLERS IN QUEBEC HAVE ACCESS TO SUPPLIES

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Could he assure the House, in a clear and precise way, that millers have free access to the Montreal and Quebec City ports to obtain their feed grain supplies?

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** No, Mr. Speaker.

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### AUDITOR GENERAL

SUGGESTED TABLING OF MODEL BILL PREPARED BY REVIEW COMMITTEE

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Privy Council whose official duties, I understand, include the difficult task of concealing all documents that are painful or embarrassing to the government or too esoteric to be disclosed to public view. Would the hon. gentleman now agree to table the model bill regarding the Auditor General prepared by an internal committee, which is alleged to suggest very considerable extensions of the power of that official, so that the members of the House will have an opportunity of judging what is in the bill?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, when the government is ready to present a bill to the House, it will be presented. Whether it will be exactly along the lines of the bill that had been prepared in the past, I do not know. I would hope we would be