

minister tell the House whether he will take the initiative in arranging a meeting at the earliest possible date?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I would hope that a meeting will take place in the very near future.

Mr. Hellyer: Has the government prepared a series of proposals and a comprehensive strategy for such talks and has the government suggested any specific date for resumption of the talks?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated on an earlier occasion, the result of my previous discussions with Secretary Shultz was that both sides would examine their positions and at a later date—I would hope very shortly—both sides would sit down together at the official level to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Mr. Hellyer: In light of the concern of the Premier of Ontario about the 15 per cent import duty on new cars and in the interest of Canadian automotive parts producers, is the minister going to consult with the government of Ontario on these two areas in particular prior to the resumption of the talks?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I recognize the importance of the auto pact to the province of Ontario. I have had discussions with the Minister of Industry for the province and have indicated to him that on the appropriate occasion I would have further consultations with him if there is some point at which it would be appropriate.

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ENERGY

GASOLINE—POSSIBILITY OF SHORTAGE—REQUEST FOR CONTROL OF EXPORTS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that a number of Canada's largest independent retailers of gasoline, including such firms as Caloil Inc. of Montreal, Gasex Oil Limited of Montreal, Premium Oil Company of Toronto and Capital City Gas and Fuel Company of Ottawa, have all stated that their inability to secure supplies of gasoline is compelling them to abandon plans to open new outlets and even to close some filling stations now in operation? In view of the minister's statement on Monday that he was keeping this situation under close scrutiny, I should like to ask him whether he is now prepared to extend export controls to cover refined products?

Hon. Donald S. MacDonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as I recall from the article in the *Globe and Mail* this morning to which the hon. member refers, the explanation was given by several of the distributors that it was an inability to purchase the refined product overseas which had imposed this termination on them. I would like to confirm that the board is keeping close surveillance on exports, but the basic problem is the tight international supply situation and the

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inability of these firms to buy refined gasoline abroad as they have been doing for the past several years.

Mr. Douglas: In view of the minister's explanation may I ask whether his attention has been drawn to the statement made by revenue minister Allan Grossman in the Ontario legislature yesterday to the effect that in the month of April Ontario exported 4.1 million gallons of gasoline, or 11 times as much as it exported in all of 1972? Since this gasoline was refined from western crude oil, may I ask the minister what action he or the National Energy Board proposes to take to protect the gasoline consumers of this country?

Mr. MacDonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated to the hon. gentleman that I would agree there is no action that can be taken about exports that occurred in April, but we have indicated to the refiners that we will expect them to meet the demands of the Canadian market and that if they fail to do so we will put on export controls.

Mr. Douglas: In view of the fact that exports of gasoline have risen astronomically and that imports have virtually come to a standstill, creating a real problem in Canada, may I ask the minister whether he has taken any action such as he promised on Monday, that the National Energy Board would intervene informally to make sure that these independent distributors get adequate supplies of gasoline?

Mr. MacDonald (Rosedale): Yes, Sir, the National Energy Board has been intervening in a number of cases. Indeed, on page B2 of the Report on Business in the *Globe and Mail* this morning he will see an example of the intervention.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF STUDY OF ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF QUEBEC

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, I wish to put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Can he tell us whether the government intends to publish the 13th file on Quebec's economic performance and, if so, when?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I shall take the question as notice and convey it to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a supplementary to the Minister of Transport.

Can he tell us whether the study referred to was undertaken when he was responsible for the Department of Regional Economic Expansion?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, studies were constantly being made when I was in charge of that