

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I could not be sure on the latter point. The source of the information would be the National Energy Board and my own officials.

OIL—INTENTION OF SUPPLYING COMPANIES REGARDING RESORT TO "FORCE MAJEURE" CLAUSE RESPECTING DELIVERIES TO CANADA

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the statement made yesterday in a speech in Toronto by Mr. L. J. Bolger, general manager of Shell Canada, and I quote—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member will appreciate that the question should be asked directly. If hon. members quote resolutions passed outside the House, speeches and reports in newspapers in support of questions, I think we get away from good practice. I would hope the hon. member would find a way to ask the question without referring specifically to a statement made outside the House.

Mr. Hees: Further to this statement that the minister's department was long ago made aware of the intention of these companies to invoke the *force majeure* clause, does the minister still claim he was given this information only a few days ago? If that is the case, will he undertake to make better use of information which was made available to his department a long time ago?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I thank the hon. member for his counsel.

Mr. Hees: Well, for heaven's sake, use it.

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● (1440)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

STEPS TO ASSIST CHILEAN REFUGEES WISHING TO COME TO CANADA

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, although the Minister of Manpower and Immigration may wish to deal with it. The Secretary of State for External Affairs told the House on Monday that he had received, or was receiving, reports from the teams sent to Chile to look into the question of expediting the admission to Canada of refugees. He said he would report to the House. Has the cabinet looked into these recommendations and is the hon. gentleman prepared to report to the House?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): With the hon. member's indulgence, I should like to answer the question. The missions have returned from South America. We have been talking to them and I expect to make a statement on this matter in the House tomorrow.

Oral Questions

ENERGY

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF CABINET COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH CRISIS

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has he appointed a cabinet committee to deal with the general subject of the energy crisis in all its phases and the effects it may have on the economy in a great number of ways if not properly met?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the subject is being discussed within the present structure of cabinet.

Mr. MacLean: Would the Prime Minister tell us briefly what are the guidelines drawn up for this committee within cabinet, if I understand him properly, and who is the minister in over-all charge of this responsibility?

Mr. Trudeau: The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is mainly responsible for bringing documentation and proposals to cabinet, and the situation is being discussed by his colleagues.

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AGRICULTURE

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON FERTILIZER AND CHEMICAL SUPPLY SITUATION

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Will he make a detailed statement on motions concerning the Canadian supply situation with respect to fertilizer and agricultural chemicals, bearing in mind that any shortage could seriously affect production and bring about a drastic increase in food prices? I ask this question because of the minister's optimism when replying to questions in the House on the subject, an optimism which is not shared by his provincial counterparts.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I will certainly consider the hon. member's request. We are compiling all the facts. Reports are coming in from the fertilizer manufacturers and as soon as they are in suitable form I will give the hon. member's suggestion serious consideration.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST THAT FINES IMPOSED ON CERTAIN PEOPLE BE REPAID

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

In view of the fact that persons who receive unemployment insurance benefits sometimes make mistakes in their statements, they are penalized and often have to reimburse the benefits they received, can the minister tell the