

Oral Questions

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Will the minister ask the Energy Board to secure such a copy?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): As the hon. member knows, the Energy Board secures a great deal of information on a confidential basis. I am not sure whether I would be at liberty, having obtained it on that basis, to make it public in a parliamentary committee.

OIL—EMBARGO LIST OF SAUDI ARABIA AND LIBYA—
CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said a few minutes ago there had been no interruption in supply of foreign crude oil to Canada. Will the minister say whether Canada is on the embargo list of Saudi Arabia and Libya?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, my understanding of the situation is that Canada is not on the embargo list in the same sense as the United States—

Mr. Woolliams: What sense?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):—in the sense there will be shipments coming to Canada through Canadian ports, although subject to the 25 per cent reduction resulting from Arab production cutbacks. However, Saudi Arabia and Libya refuse to ship through Portland, Maine, in bond to Canada.

● (1450)

Mr. Bawden: Mr. Speaker, would the minister comment on the fact there has been no Saudi Arabian crude arrive at Portland for Canada since October 23, and will he say what efforts are being made to obtain oil and why he has been unable to explain to Saudi Arabia that this crude is actually bound for Canada?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the fact that none has arrived seems to me to be consistent with the position that the Saudis have taken. We have had our diplomatic representative go to the capital of Saudi Arabia for the purpose of laying forth the Canadian position, but they have not been prepared to take what they regard as a risk in shipping to a United States port, which they feel might in some way advantage the United States.

SUGGESTED NEGOTIATIONS BY GOVERNMENT WITH
VENEZUELA AND OTHER COUNTRIES FOR DIRECT
PURCHASE OF OIL

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact we are now getting some idea of the power of these huge multinational companies with regard to shipping products from one area to another, can the minister say whether or not he has started negotiating with Venezuela or any other oil exporting country for the purchase of oil directly from these countries instead of going through the medium of multinational corporations?

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): As we have said in relation to Venezuela, the information we have is that oil available to the Venezuelan national petroleum company is fully committed at this time. They have elected not to take additional oil in the form of crude oil instead of royalties, and at the moment they have no additional oil for export. Given the tightness of the international situation, there does not seem to be very much scope for the hon. member's suggestion.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary regarding the price of oil in this country. Can the minister say whether he is prepared to grant the energy supply allocation board power to control the price of oil domestically in this country?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the powers of the board will be contained in the bill which will be coming before parliament shortly.

[Translation]

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF OIL PIPELINE TO MONTREAL—
DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

In view of the present serious crisis in the transportation of Alberta oil to eastern Canada, and since the extension of a pipeline from Sarnia to Montreal is, I believe, an urgent matter, can the minister say if his department is now working on an agreement with Quebec on the installation and operation conditions of a pipeline joining Sarnia and Montreal? If so, when will a definite plan be submitted to the Quebec government?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, we are now concluding discussions on this subject. We shall be meeting this week with representatives of pipeline companies. Such a meeting shall be held also with my Quebec counterpart, perhaps next week, or at a date still to be set.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

IMPRISONMENT OF THOMAS SERJEANT IN TANZANIA—
REPRESENTATIONS BY CANADA

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and concerns an incident involving a Canadian citizen who has been imprisoned in Tanzania. On September 26 a young Canadian citizen, Thomas Serjeant, while flying to Cape Town, was forced to land in Tanzania where his plane was confiscated and he was imprisoned and has remained in prison without being charged. Can the minister tell the House when he first learned of this incident and what action he has taken to obtain this young Canadian's release and to ensure his safety while in prison?