

and I met several weeks ago we discussed this very matter, at which time I indicated ways in which I thought the International Joint Commission could be brought into service to control spills on the east and west coasts. The President agreed that we should discuss this very matter. The Minister of Transport has just said that discussions along these lines at the official level did take place last week. We hope that this present event will indicate even more strongly to the United States that our fears were not without foundation.

OIL SPILLS—REQUEST THAT PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS AND BILLS PERTAINING TO PREVENTION BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

**Mr. D. W. Groos (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the government House leader. Will he take this comparatively minor oil spill at Cherry Point as an indication of the seriousness of the problem which both Canada and the United States face and send all private members' notices of motions and private members' bills pertaining to the prevention of such accidents to the appropriate standing committees of the House for study and action? While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker—

**Some hon. Members:** Order!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**An hon. Member:** You are not on your feet.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I wonder whether we might proceed in an orderly fashion by allowing the minister to reply to the original question, and when the hon. member is on his feet again he may ask a supplementary.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am already giving consideration to that proposal.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member may now resume his feet.

**Mr. Groos:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that I am on my feet again, may I draw your attention to the fact that today is the twenty-eighth anniversary of the allied landing in Normandy. In doing so, I hope I may remind hon. members that there is still plenty of peaceful action needed today on the pollution front.

• (1420)

UNITED STATES POSITION RESPECTING REFERENCE OF PROPOSED TAPS TANKER ROUTE TO INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Has the government yet received any assurance from the United States government that it would be willing to submit the whole question of the Cherry Point and Strait of Juan de Fuca route to the International Joint Commission?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, not to my knowledge, although I would have to confirm this with the Secretary of State for External

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Affairs. But as I said in my answer a moment ago, when I discussed the matter with the President he did indicate the willingness of his government to study this matter and see in what way we could best manage the problem of possible spills on the east and west coasts. I repeat that there have been meetings at the official level. There has been to my knowledge no official and final response from the United States government yet.

CHERRY POINT OIL SPILL—REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES RESPECTING POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO CANADIAN PROPERTY

**Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. When I addressed a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs yesterday on the matter of the oil spill at Cherry Point he said he would look into the matter to see whether or not we have a case to take up with the United States. In light of the announcement of Canadian government policy that we will hold the United States responsible for any damage to Canadian property from such spills, can the Prime Minister indicate whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs has looked into this matter and is there any information he can give the House concerning action of that kind against the United States government?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have not had a report on this since the Secretary of State for External Affairs spoke yesterday, but he will be in the House again this week and I am sure he will be glad to answer the question then.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Egmont for a last supplementary on this subject and then go to the next matter.

CHERRY POINT OIL SPILL—REQUEST THAT COMMITTEE OF HOUSE NOW ON WEST COAST INVESTIGATE

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Parliament of this country has already expressed itself on this question and the fact that the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence is now on the west coast, would the Prime Minister consider contacting the chairman of the committee to see if it might take some time from its agenda to study the matter directly in order to be able to report to the House and the government on any additional information available or any action that might be taken?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am rather afraid the House would find it improper if I were to take it upon myself to give direction to a chairman of a parliamentary committee. If the House wants to give a direction it would be more proper for it to do so.