

*Oral Questions*

told the House that the chief justice would not normally be called upon to look into conversations between "members of my cabinet," stating that this was "quite proper." The Minister of Public Works indicated that the chief justice has not interviewed him in this regard. As it seems unlikely that the chief justice will investigate ministerial intent, one of the crucial issues here and a central responsibility of the Prime Minister, does the Prime Minister intend to make a statement or initiate an inquiry into the conduct of his ministers in this regard, since he is the only person with access to this information?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have been sorting out questions carefully and watching for repetitions. There has been a recurrence of questions, with slight variation, on the same theme. I think, in this case, there is not a variation. The hon. member has put a question which has been put previously to the Prime Minister and answered by the Prime Minister.

REQUEST FOR IDENTIFICATION OF PUBLIC-SPIRITED CITIZENS WHO APPROACHED JUDGE ON BEHALF OF CONSUMER'S MINISTER

**Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggan):** Mr. Speaker, I am trying to elicit information, with all due deference. I am asking the minister for further clarification. As the Minister of Public Works has referred to a number of public spirited citizens who also approached the judge, has the Prime Minister, as leader of the Liberal party, looked into the matter. Has he any idea who those people are and will he identify them if he knows who they are?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have no more idea than the hon. member opposite might have.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** You should have.

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**ENERGY**

REQUEST FOR SUBSIDY FOR OIL FOR GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY IN NOVA SCOTIA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. As power rates in Nova Scotia have now risen beyond the reach of ordinary working men and pensioners, and in view of the rough reception given to federal cabinet representatives from Nova Scotia at last weekend's Liberal convention by Liberals, particularly the finance minister of that province and others, with respect to the need for a subsidy for oil for power generation purposes, can the minister say if Nova Scotia is to be given assistance in this regard?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, Nova Scotia is already receiving assistance in two forms. It is receiving assistance under the oil compensation account. If Nova Scotia were to pay the world price, it would pay much more than it is now being asked to pay. To be specific, may I refer to the price that the power utility pays for its coal. If that coal were

[Mr. Hnatyshyn.]

sold at world prices, power would be much more expensive. Actually, that coal is being sold at the equivalent of the Canadian oil price, which is held down well below the world price. As a result DEVCO is assuming greater losses than it otherwise would. This form of subsidy is to the benefit of citizens of Nova Scotia.

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**VETERANS AFFAIRS**

SUGGESTED SUPPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE TO PENSIONERS IN NOVA SCOTIA IN VIEW OF HIGH COST OF ELECTRICITY

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder why the rate has more than doubled. May I direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs? As recipients of disability pensions and war veterans allowances are finding it almost impossible to survive and pay their power bills, would the minister consider granting special supplementary assistance to recipients of DVA pensions?

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, according to our last assessment, recipients of WVA and disability pensions, after receiving the indexed adjustment, are in a position to pay for their energy.

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[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE**

REQUEST OF INDUSTRIAL MILK PRODUCERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Raynald Guay (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, while waiting for the report of the chief justice on the matter in which the Progressive Conservatives are interested, I should like to put to the right hon. Prime Minister a very serious question on a matter of interest to thousands of Canadians.

Following the meeting held by the members of the Quebec Liberal caucus with industrial milk producers—for we now understand—and the most positive representations of those producers, will the Prime Minister and his cabinet give serious consideration to the requests of the producers?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Yes, of course, Mr. Speaker; I shall be helped in this regard by the very important brief handed over to me by the members of the Quebec Liberal caucus.

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[English]

**SUPPLY AND SERVICES**

CONTRACT WITH LOCKHEED—REASON FOR MINISTER'S ASSURANCE OF DELIVERY OF AIRCRAFT—POSSIBILITY OF UNITED STATES GUARANTEES

**Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Supply and Services. In answer to a question I asked him on Tuesday of this week, he said that he was reassured about the Lockheed Orion