

Oral Questions

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we only formed the Government on September 17 last year. I do not know when the caucus met after that.

Mr. Tobin: Over the last year.

Mr. Mulroney: No, you asked me about September. You said it was not this September because the Member is sick, so it has to be last September. Now you change your mind on that.

Mr. Marchi: You are the one changing your mind.

Mr. Mulroney: I first acquired this information last Tuesday night. It is just as clear cut as that, and that is exactly the case.

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NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS**EXPORT OF URANIUM TO UNITED STATES**

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Canadians believe that all uranium exported from our country is to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. In fact, we have an agreement with the United States which contains a specific clause about Canadian uranium which says that it "shall not be used for any military purpose".

I have given the Prime Minister notice of this question. Would he agree that the only possible interpretation of those words is that no uranium exported from Canada to the United States should be used for anything but peaceful purposes?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): That is generally our interpretation. The Secretary of State will be in the House tomorrow to provide more ample information for the Member. This policy is one that has been unchanged. It goes back to a decision by Mr. Pearson in about 1965, and that is the general thrust of what successive Governments have followed.

USE MADE OF URANIUM

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Prime Minister that that is what the policy is supposed to be, and that is what the words of the agreement between Canada and the United States are. Has the Prime Minister been informed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, or by any of his officials, of the very serious evidence that has been brought forward to show that Canadian uranium is now being used in the United States for the construction of nuclear weapons?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): I am not aware of the specifics of that, but as I indicated, the Secretary of State will respond very fully to the question tomorrow in the House.

REQUEST THAT INQUIRIES BE MADE

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, given the very great importance of this issue to Canadians and other people around the world, will the Prime Minister assure the House that he will have people in his office look into this immediately to find out if the evidence, which I understand to be quite conclusive, is conclusive? Once that is established, will he find out how it ever came to be that we would allow that to transpire with our uranium? Finally, will he take immediate steps to ensure that no uranium exported from Canada is used in any way for military purposes?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as soon as we received notice of the question of my hon. friend I began the process of conveying those instructions. A fuller response will be delivered by the Secretary of State tomorrow.

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ENERGY**STIMULATION OF CANADA LANDS EXPLORATION**

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, my question, through you, is directed to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Petroleum Incentive Program terminates in March, 1986, as is stated in the Western Accord. What is being done and what discussions are under way to formulate a new federal policy to stimulate Canada Lands exploration? When might the Minister make an announcement in order that resource companies can make plans for future activity in the frontier?

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the Minister is having discussions with the industry, the provinces, and the Minister of Finance and others in the Government involved in this particular program. She will have something to announce to the House, hopefully before the end of the year.

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BANKS AND BANKING**CANADIAN COMMERCIAL BANK—MINISTER'S MARCH STATEMENT**

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. On March 29 the Minister assured us that, with the exception of the Canadian Commercial Bank, no financial institution was in any difficulty. On that very same day, Western Capital Trust closed its doors after months of negotiations with the Minister's officials. Will the Minister explain why, only two days ago, she again said in the House that her March 29 statement was true?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, as I have explained in the House before, Western