

Oral Questions

monitoring agency have the power to roll back unwarranted price increases?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the procedures followed by the Energy Supplies Allocation Board, and previously by the department itself, in monitoring the wholesale price will continue. I could indicate to the hon. gentleman that if we find in any circumstance a company has overcharged in respect of any prices, it will be expected to make good that overcharge to its customers or run the risk of a reduction in its compensation payments pursuant to the Petroleum Administration Act.

OIL—BASIS FOR CALCULATING LENGTH OF DELAY BEFORE INCREASING PRICE

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): A supplementary question. Could the minister explain why the federal government has arrived at the figure of 45 days for a delay in oil price increases whereas the province of Ontario has calculated the delay should be 90 days? Is it a minimum or average calculation and does the federal government know how much old priced oil will be left on hand after the 45 days?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, it is not just a question of old priced oil, it is also a question of what inventory and particular products would be available. The 45 day figure, which was in operation last year and again this year, represents the lowest common denominator. The standard in this regard is dictated by smaller refineries such as the Saskatchewan Co-operative Refinery which for economic reasons could not sustain a further delay. The Ontario government of course felt that the companies operating within that province can bear that additional cost and for that reason has imposed the additional period. We have to deal, of course, on a national basis.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

MACKENZIE HIGHWAY—DECISION ON FUTURE OF PROJECT

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In response to questions recorded in *Hansard* on March 21 and April 17 regarding the future of the Mackenzie highway, the minister indicated on both occasions that his department was giving consideration to the matter. Could the minister now advise the House if a decision has been made regarding the future of the highway?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to slow down the proposed building of this highway. The intention would be to earmark some of the funds that have been allocated for that highway to speed up the construction of the Dempster highway, the highway at Carcross-Shagway and the Liard Highways.

[Mr. Symes.]

IMMIGRATION

ALLEGATION SOME PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES ARE IN CANADA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of the report last night that some or all of the PLO delegates are already in Canada, can the minister tell the House if the government knows who these delegates are and how many of them are already in Canada?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer that question. I think the matter of immigration is the responsibility of my colleague.

Mr. Huntington: Mr. Speaker, may I then redirect a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration? In light of the report last night that some or all of the PLO delegates are already in Canada, can the minister tell the House if the government knows who these delegates are and how many of them are already in the country?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, no PLO delegates from other countries, identified as such, have entered this country with permission of any department of the government. It is possible, however, that this may have some reference to the suggestion that a Canadian citizen may be chosen as the representative of that organization—or even a United States citizen for all I know—but there are no PLO delegates as such in the country to my knowledge.

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TRANSPORT

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL STUDY OF ANOTHER TRANSPORTATION LINK BETWEEN NEW BRUNSWICK AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Transport of which I have given him notice concerning the recommendation made recently by a joint federal-provincial task force concerning another transportation link between New Brunswick and the western part of Prince Edward Island. In view of the involvement of the Department of Transport and its study of the same question, could the minister indicate whether his department concurs with the recommendation and when there might be some action on it?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows a study was made by the P.E.I. government and also one by my own department. We are now studying both reports and we hope to reach a conclusion very soon.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question. In view of the fact that the government of New Brunswick has already made its own recommendations, and I understand that the possibility of concurrence in the same recommendation is likely from the government study, can the minister give us a firm indication of when the federal