

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

merce with regard to the nationalization of the Alcan property by the government of Guyana, a matter in which he has shown a great deal of insouciance. Can the minister advise what the government is currently doing with regard to this discriminatory action on the part of the Guyanese government?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** I am surprised at the use of the word "enthusiasm". I do not know exactly on which side he puts one on in this matter. I have shown great "interest". That is the proper word. Discussions are now going on between Alcan and the Guyanese government as to what would be adequate compensation for the nationalization which was announced last week.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** The word was insouciance, Mr. Speaker, not enthusiasm. What is the government of Canada doing with reference to the government of Guyana in connection with this takeover of property which is important to many Canadians?

**Mr. Pepin:** The representations I talked about last week which have been made to the Guyanese government with respect to nationalization itself still apply.

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**ENERGY**

EAST COAST OIL AND GAS RESERVES—TYPE OF DRILLING RIG, COMPANY THAT WILL PERFORM WORK

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to answer the question asked by the hon. member for South Shore with respect to offshore drilling rigs. My information is that the rig is similar to others already in use. The new Sedco I drilling rig has been built by South Eastern Commonwealth Drilling Company of Calgary and Dallas, to be contracted to Amoco Canada Petroleum Company and Imperial Oil Limited. The rig was built at Halifax shipyards. A third unit of this type is currently under construction for later operation by Mobil Oil Canada Limited.

PROGRESS ON AGREEMENT WITH ATLANTIC PROVINCES ON OFFSHORE RESOURCES

**Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West):** I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Can the minister advise what progress he has made in negotiations with the four Atlantic provinces with regard to offshore resources and whether he expects an agreement to be reached shortly?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate asked a similar question which I undertook to answer. Meetings are being held on a continuing basis with the provinces on this matter. The latest of these occurred earlier this month with the pre-

[Mr. Macquarrie.]

mier of Nova Scotia. These are difficult negotiations, but I believe that favourable progress is being made. I am hopeful that we can achieve a resolution of this long-standing and difficult problem.

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**ATOMIC ENERGY**

POSSIBLE SALE OF PLANT TO AUSTRALIA

**Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley):** I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the starting up of the atomic energy plant at Pickering, does the minister have anything new to report on the possible sale of an atomic energy plant to Australia?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I believe this matter falls under my jurisdiction. I have nothing to report at the present time. I believe there is no official position on the part of Australia as to what it will do. As soon as there is anything official, I will undertake to report the matter to the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day. Perhaps with the consent of the House the hon. member for Comox-Alberni and the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond might be given the opportunity to ask supplementaries.

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**ENERGY**

NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA RESPECTING OFFSHORE RESOURCES

**Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources arising out of the negotiations with the provinces with regard to drilling rights. Are there any current negotiations going on with the province of British Columbia on this subject?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** There are no current negotiations going on at the ministerial level with British Columbia. I believe officials are still discussing the matter. However, in all fairness, I think that the position of the government of British Columbia on this subject has been made rather firm. Of course, there is a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada on a reference specifically with regard to British Columbia.

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**ATOMIC ENERGY**

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON REACTOR SALES AND PROFITS

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** I have a supplementary question for the Minister of