

refugee situation. I think the situation will clarify itself a bit within the next few days when we know where people are gathering and what their status is.

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ENERGY

NATURAL GAS—ALBERTA AWARD OF PRICE INCREASE TO TRANS-CANADA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in regard to the report that an Alberta arbitration award has been handed down in a dispute between Gulf Oil and Trans-Canada setting a price for natural gas of \$1.15 per thousand cubic feet. Has the minister been in touch with the premier of Alberta as to whether or not this price is now going to be the price for all gas exported from Alberta to Canadian consumers, or what steps does the government propose to take to deal with an increase of from 60 cents per thousand cubic feet to \$1.15?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): The hon. gentleman will recall that this decision was not unanticipated, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, it was referred to by me in the debate on the Petroleum Administration Act. It would be the government's view that an increase to \$1.15 at the wellhead should not take place at this time. Indeed, officials of my department have already met with the Albertan officials to talk about some agreement on an increase, but to a much lower level than that proposed by the arbitration board. I am anticipating meeting the Alberta minister of energy this coming week to have further discussions along this line, and we hope that this will lead to an agreement on a price for natural gas, as of November 1 this year, which could then be made subject to orders in council as provided for in the Petroleum Administration Act, assuming, of course, that that bill comes into law.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of this decision whether it stands or not, in regard to the domestic price of natural gas, may I ask the minister what effect it will have on setting the export price of gas? In view of the fact that it is generally conceded that the minister has in mind a price of \$1.60, allowing for transportation, a price of \$1.15 would mean that Canadian consumers would be paying a higher price for gas than American consumers. Will the minister be making an announcement within the next few days on the export price, and can he give us any idea whether the action in Alberta will have any effect on the federal government's decision in respect of the export price for natural gas?

● (1430)

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Strictly speaking, Mr. Speaker, it would not have a direct effect on the determination of the export price. I anticipate being able to make an announcement within the next several days in respect of the next step upwards in the export price of gas, but I just confirm again that my efforts will be directed toward

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keeping down the price of gas to the Canadian consumer very much below the \$1.15 level.

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AIR TRANSPORT

PROPOSED MONETARY COMPENSATION FOR PREGNANT FLIGHT ATTENDANTS IF REFUSED PERMISSION TO FLY

Mrs. Ursula Appolloni (York South): Mr. Speaker, in view of the important medical facts pointed out in a letter dated April 7 from Dr. Lise Fortier to the vice-president of the Canadian Airlines Flight Attendants Association, will the Minister of Transport assure this House that if his department does succumb to the chauvinistic pressure of the pilots' association and refuses pregnant flight attendants the right to fly it will also legislate due monetary compensation in line with the benefits enjoyed by their pregnant sisters in every other branch of industry?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have asked Mr. McLeish, the Director General of Civil Aeronautics, to meet with the association of the stewardesses and flight attendants in order to have a new look at this problem. They are supposed to meet on May 12 and have discussions about the new regulations which are not going to be adopted before we reach some kind of an agreement with this association.

Mr. Fairweather: And with your own low.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Of course, at the same time we have a joint commitment with labour so we have to reconcile our own regulations with the labour standards of the Minister of Labour.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ALLEGED CANCELLATION OF UNITED NATIONS MEETING BY AUSTRALIA BECAUSE OF ATTENDANCE OF PLO REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, will the Secretary of State for External Affairs advise the House whether Australia recently cancelled a United Nations meeting to be held in Australia because it would have involved the attendance of representatives of the PLO and, if so, did such action jeopardize the membership of Australia in the UN?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have no information on this subject.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE IN TORONTO—CONSISTENCY OF ATTENDANCE OF PLO REPRESENTATIVES WITH CANADIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS TERRORISM

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister to look into that. Could he advise whether the decision to go ahead with the hosting of the UN congress on crime in this country was taken after