

[Translation]

OIL

USE OF ALBERTA PRODUCTION IN
EASTERN CANADA

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

As the Canadian government authorizes imports of unrefined oil, when Alberta is producing only half the oil that it could produce, does the minister intend to take the necessary measures to remedy the situation?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the object of our discussions with the Americans is to ensure a larger market for western oil and, should our representations be successful, we may have an even better market for Canadian oil.

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): I should like to ask a supplementary question to the minister.

He tells us that his department is now negotiating in order to conclude better trade agreements with the United States, but it remains to be seen whether Canadian consumers of crude oil could get it in Alberta rather than in the South of the United States as they do now?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, if oil were sent from Alberta to Quebec, in the East, it would be very costly. Indeed, pipelines would have to be built from western Canada, which would not be profitable.

Presently, if the oil consumed in the East contains equal parts of Canadian and foreign oil, that constitutes a good market for western oil. Besides, it is possible to get oil cheaper, in the East. In our opinion—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Greene:—it is the best mixture.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must interrupt the minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

BIAFRA—REQUEST BY CANAIRELIEF
FOR ASSISTANCE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether he has reached any decision with regard to the request by

Inquiries of the Ministry

Canairelief for government support? I ask this question because it is two weeks today since we had a discussion in the House on this subject and at least a month since Canairelief renewed its request to the government for such support.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, Canairelief has been told that we are at present working on an alternative scheme to attempt to provide relief to the people of Biafra. If this scheme does not prove feasible, then we will come back to discussion of the Canairelief scheme.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the Prime Minister indicate to the House when the government of Canada will be prepared to come back to the Canairelief request? In other words, can the Prime Minister indicate to the House the approximate length of time the government is going to take in seeking an alternative course of action?

Mr. Trudeau: My information is, Mr. Speaker, that my office informed Canairelief a few days ago that we were taking a further period of three weeks. Part of that three weeks is up now. We have given ourselves this extension to work on this alternative method which would have the incomparable advantage of bringing much greater relief supplies to the people of Nigeria-Biafra.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Would the Prime Minister undertake to make a statement to the House before the Christmas recess on the subject of relief either by means of Canairelief or whatever other means the government sees fit to pursue?

Mr. Trudeau: If there is anything definite to report, Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to do so.

PENITENTIARIES

POSITION OF NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING
EMPLOYEES' SALARIES

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Solicitor General and the President of the Treasury Board I should like to ask a question concerning the position of penitentiary guards and custodial officers who inform me that at Prince Albert, and I assume this applies elsewhere, 2 per cent is the extent of the salary increase that they are to be allowed in the coming year. In view of the fact that they have no recourse to press for