

Oral Questions

ment with export companies which have agreed to boycott Israel. Will the minister tell us whether as a result of this meeting any firm policy was agreed upon and has he now issued a directive in writing covering this important matter?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): The board did review its policies and confirmed that it will not negotiate any contract which involved direct lending with respect to agreements containing an Arab boycott clause; it would not insure any investment involving an Arab boycott clause and with respect to insurance policies it would not insure a boycott clause within such a policy. This position has been made known to me and I am considering it together with other questions at the present time.

Mr. Bawden: Can the minister give the House a complete assurance that he will be issuing directives in writing to his department and to the EDC so that there may be no question about the policies being followed?

Mr. Gillespie: I think the government as a whole will be considering this matter in the very near future. The view of the government will be communicated, of course, to all departments and to the Crown corporation.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS**SHORTAGE OF MASON JAR LIDS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—
GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs? It arises from the answer given by the hon. gentleman in reply to a question by the hon. member for Okanagan-Kootenay with regard to wide-mouth Mason jar lids. I quote: "I may remind the hon. member that one of the reasons for such a shortage was a strike in the company manufacturing these products in British Columbia." In view of the fact that there are no manufacturers of wide-mouth Mason jar lids in British Columbia, I ask the minister what he is doing about this shortage which is just as acute now as it was last year. When does the government intend to take this problem seriously?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the hon. member that he is quite new in this record because discussions have been going on for months between the officials of my department, Canadian manufacturers and American manufacturers in order to encourage them to increase their production to meet demand, particularly in British Columbia. Officials of my department met manufacturers of British Columbia just for this reason. We are constantly in contact with provincial authorities to ensure that, as far as possible, there are enough products to meet demand.

[Mr. Bawden.]

[English]

AGRICULTURE**UNITED STATES QUOTAS ON BEEF—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS
REPORT ON GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ELIMINATE**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): A question for the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker. What progress has the government been making in its attempts to have United States quotas on beef lifted? What progress has been made in working out a solution satisfactory to both sides to end this dispute?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I think some progress has been made, but the discussions have not yet been completed.

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NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD**MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE HEARINGS—REQUEST FOR
ASSURANCE THOSE OPPOSED TO PIPELINE WILL BE GIVEN
HEARING**

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources I have a question for the Prime Minister; it relates to the Mackenzie Valley pipeline application by Canadian Arctic Gas and by Foothills. Can the right hon. gentleman assure the House that participation in any public hearings or pre-hearings held by the National Energy Board will be open to groups which oppose the construction of the pipeline as well as to representatives of the pipeline companies?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Might I ask the parliamentary secretary to the minister to answer that question?

Mr. Maurice Foster (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the public announcement of these hearings to be held by the Board this fall made it clear that all intervenors can make presentations.

**MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE HEARINGS—POSSIBILITY
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WILL PRESENT BRIEF ON PUBLIC
INTEREST**

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Perhaps I should direct this question to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister tell us which government departments intend to intervene in the hearings and in particular can he confirm reports that the Department of Justice will be setting out for the benefit of the NEB the Canadian public interest as it is affected by the pipeline proposals?

Mr. Maurice Foster (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I will take notice of the question and get the answer for the hon. member.