

under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Mr. Schumacher: May I then direct my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the question of national oil policy is under constant review. There is a particularly critical review going on at the present time in light of the hearings of the Schultz Committee, the presidential committee on oil in Washington, in connection with Canadian oil policy. We are in constant communication with our United States counterparts to assure that the Canadian interests are considered in the United States review and so that Canadian producers can have the maximum access to the United States market, a most advantageous oil market.

INDUSTRY

POTASH—INQUIRY AS TO MEETING WITH PRODUCERS

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Is the minister holding a meeting this week with the potash producers? If so, what is the purpose of the meeting?

Mr. Speaker: I doubt very much whether the question as asked is the type of question which should be asked during the question period.

Mr. Burton: Mr. Speaker, if I might rise on a point of order, it is a very urgent matter involving the stand of the federal government, certain positions of the Saskatchewan provincial government, and an important sector of the Canadian economy. I urge that a question on this subject be allowed.

Mr. Speaker: I would be pleased to accept a question but not the one asked by the hon. member. The hon. member for Calgary North.

Mr. Burton: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Calgary North and will return to the hon. member for Regina East.

Inquiries of the Ministry

TAXATION

CONFIDENTIALITY OF WHITE PAPER

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I wish to direct this question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact the white paper on taxation was to remain confidential and in view of the invitation to hon. members to attend a confidential briefing, will the Prime Minister check and advise the House tomorrow whether there has been any leakage in reference to the white paper on taxation? I ask this question in view of statements made at noon by radio commentators and statements made in the press in reference to what may be contained in that white paper.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to check this, but during the many months that this matter has been discussed by cabinet anything that has been published heretofore has been done merely by way of speculation. We are rather satisfied with the fact that there have been no leaks at all. If, today, there is a continuation of the speculation, there is nothing I can do about it.

Mr. Woolliams: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, which I put to the Prime Minister in view of his answer that there has been some speculation. Since the Prime Minister has not checked into this matter, would he do so and give an assurance to the House in this regard in view of its importance to the economy and taxpayers of Canada?

INDUSTRY

POTASH—INQUIRY AS TO MEETING WITH PRODUCERS

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Is it the intention of the minister to meet with the potash producers? If so, would the minister inform the House as to the government's stand with regard to the Saskatchewan plan involving licensing, minimum prices and proportioning of production?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is to be such a meeting tomorrow between producers in the potash industry and officers of my department. The purpose of the meeting is to gather from these people maximum information on their views, as well as