

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

such it is considered confidential and may not be tabled. Perhaps the hon. member might kindly withdraw his motion.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** I have no intention of so doing, Mr. Speaker. I did not expect to get the directive in any event.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Transfer for debate.

**Mr. Speaker:** Transferred for debate.

**Mr. Jerome:** May I ask that the remaining notices of motions be allowed to stand, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

## PROJECTED TAKEOVER OF HOME OIL BY UNITED STATES COMPANY—REPORTED SALE

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has he any comment to make on the report that the control of Home Oil has been sold? I ask this question knowing that the minister has been following this matter closely and therefore I assume he can give the House this information.

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, Home Oil has not been sold. The parties involved, including potential buyers and the vendor, are in communication with me. I have no further report to make at this time. To the best of my knowledge and information, it has not been sold.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Can the minister indicate to the House, not in terms of a long statement, the nature of the measures he is taking to try to preserve control of this company in Canada?

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, as these negotiations are extremely confidential with respect to the parties involved, I think it would not be useful if I were to say too much, except that my position has been that it is in the interests of Canada to maintain control and majority ownership in Home Oil in Canadian hands, if that can be done. I have been doing my best in meeting with the parties to persuade them of this position.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Is the minister making any recommendations to his colleagues that would put other Canadian companies in a position to compete with American companies in the acquisition and control of companies such as Home Oil?

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, I think probably, under the constitutional practices to which we adhere, that my advice to my colleagues is not something that I ought to

[Mr. Caccia.]

report in this House. I can certainly assure my hon. friend that I am doing everything possible within the law to maintain this as a Canadian company.

## PROJECTED TAKEOVER OF HOME OIL BY UNITED STATES COMPANY—IMPORT OF LETTER OF INTENT

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** May I direct a supplementary question to the minister, Mr. Speaker. It relates to the answer he gave to the Leader of the Opposition in which he said that he had no knowledge of the sale. Does the minister have knowledge of a letter dated January 18? It is a letter of intent relating to the parties and in it his name is mentioned in connection with the sale in question. If the minister has knowledge of this letter, does he take that letter to mean that there is no sale or that there is a sale?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, there is no such documentation of which I am aware; I am not sure of the specific letter to which my hon. friend refers. Any documentation of which I am aware was referable only to proposals or possible sales. I am not aware of any documentation which implemented an executed sale agreement.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, the letter I am referring to is the letter filed with the securities commission of the United States and is dated January 18. I cannot pinpoint it more closely except to say that it is a letter of intent. I suggest that the minister has knowledge of the letter. I ask, therefore, if he has knowledge of it and whether he was part of the negotiations leading up to the sale?

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, I scarcely think that I could be a part of the negotiations. I have been kept aware of the proposals.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Is the minister aware of the letter?

**Mr. Greene:** I am aware that there was a written document—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Greene:**—which, to the best of my knowledge and as I stated, purported to be a proposal or a possible agreement of sale. But it certainly did not constitute a binding agreement of sale. It was only a proposal or a suggestion that might lead to sale.

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## LABOUR CONDITIONS

## PROGRAMS FOR UNEMPLOYED UNDER 25 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS OR MAN-POWER TRAINING ALLOWANCES

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Since the unemployment pattern for several months now has followed a consistent pattern in that over 40 per cent of those who are unemployed are under 25 years of age, and since the government has now had ample oppor-