

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):—because the particular supply contracts are not documents in the possession of the government of Canada.

[Translation]

REFUSAL OF GOLDEN EAGLE CANADA LIMITED TO DELIVER FUEL OIL IN RIMOUSKI AND MONT-JOLI—REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, a while ago I wanted to speak about the point of order raised by the Leader of the Official Opposition. The hon. member for York South and the minister have just mentioned the *force majeure* clause. For about two weeks, we have been hearing that eastern Canada and especially Quebec have sufficient oil reserves for 52 days. Yesterday, I received telephone calls from the area of Mont-Joli and Rimouski in the lower Saint-Lawrence valley complaining that Golden Eagle Canada Limited heating fuel distributors were refusing to deliver fuel until next Monday because they were waiting for the price increase of December 1. Is the minister aware of this and will he take action to force Golden Eagle Canada Limited to deliver the required fuel to the people of Mont-Joli and Rimouski?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of this situation, but I thank the hon. member for having brought it to my attention and I shall make the necessary investigations.

[English]

OIL EXPORT TAX—DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF PROCEEDS—MEASURES TO PROTECT CONSUMERS WHEN PRICE FREEZE EXPIRES

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. On November 14 last the minister was asked a question in committee with regard to the \$1.90 per barrel export tax on crude petroleum. Did we understand him correctly to say that either directly or indirectly the entire tax will go back to the province where the resource is located or be used in the province where it originated?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the position I took then and several times both inside and outside the House is that the proceeds of the export tax will go back in the first place to put the producing province in the position it would have been if its oil had been sold both for export and in on the domestic market at the higher price which they have been deprived of by the price restraint. At the same time, we indicated that the federal government would embark upon joint venture investments to further energy resources in the producing provinces with the balance of the proceeds.

Mr. Woolliams: So there will not be any understanding, did we understand the minister correctly that 40 to 50 per cent of that tax will go back to the treasury of the resource province and the remainder of the tax will be used for technological research and/or development within the province that produced the resource?

Oral Questions

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): That is right, Mr. Speaker. It will depend very much on the actual royalty position of each of the producing provinces. In effect, these funds will be going back. Those in federal hands will be going back in federal programs for the purpose of stimulating resources in those provinces.

Mr. Woolliams: I do not want there to be any misunderstanding because we get one answer one day and another the next. I even gave the minister notice of this question. Did the minister not say to the committee, and is this not what he intended to say, that 40 to 50 per cent of that tax would go back to the treasury of the province where the resource is developed and the remainder would be used for development within that province? Surely he can answer that question with a yes or no so we will understand him.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is in effect what I said.

Mr. Woolliams: One further supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are not making much headway. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Calgary North for a supplementary and then the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain.

Mr. Woolliams: Will the minister make it very clear at this stage what mechanism or alternative measures will be suggested to replace the export tax when the price freeze goes off so that the consumers of Canada will be protected against the high cost of fuel and gasoline?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, we will be bringing forward a draft bill to the House for first reading to deal with the export tax and the continuing system in this situation. With regard to the question of the economic rent to be yielded by an increase in the western part of the Canadian market, we have had discussions with several provincial governments on this question. This may indeed relate to the kind of royalty programs they are planning on instituting in the near future.

REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF ESTIMATES, CONTRACTS, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO SUPPLYING OF OFFSHORE OIL

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to go back to the question of supply and *force majeure*. In light of the minister's appearance tomorrow night at 8 p.m. before the Miscellaneous Estimates Committee, can we have his assurance he will make available on that occasion copies of relevant estimates, contracts and other documents relating to the supply of oil to Canada from offshore sources, particularly a copy of the contract between Creole and the Canadian Refining Company?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am sure I can bring information as produced in the technical liaison committee. I can give no assurance that I will be able to produce private documents that are in the hands of the contracting companies.