

INDUSTRY

PROVISION OF NEWSPRINT TO WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It pertains to the scarcity of newsprint being experienced by Canadian weekly newspapers. Can the minister give the House an assurance that a sufficient supply of newsprint to the weekly newspapers of Canada will be maintained?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I checked on this question as recently as two days ago, I think, and I believe that as a result of the representations that I and my officials have made I can give that assurance.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte followed by the hon. member for Trinity.

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ENERGY

PROVISION BY CANADA OF BUNKER C OIL TO MAINE PULP MILLS

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, in view of the major disruption of trade and traditional employment patterns in western New Brunswick, part of Quebec and in the state of Maine which will result if the National Energy Board does not allow fulfilment of long-term Canadian contracts to provide bunker C oil to pulp mills in Maine, has the minister asked the National Energy Board to reconsider export applications for bunker C oil supply to these mills and, if so, what is their position now?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to the National Energy Board following discussions with the hon. member and with Premier Hatfield on this question. The board advises me that in their judgment there is an insufficient quantity of bunker C oil available on the east coast for them to be able to certify that these exports will be surplus to Canadian requirements. Therefore, under the authority of the statute they would be required to refuse applications. I have suggested to my department that we might explore this further with Washington to see if there might be a possible *quid pro quo* between the situation in Maine and that of the Lower mainland of British Columbia.

Mr. McCain: In view of the fact that according to the press—

An hon. Member: That is not a fact.

Mr. McCain: You say that to the press yourself—there has been no cutback to Canada from traditional sources of supply for the refineries in eastern Canada, and since it has been suggested that Aramco may not be delivering to Canada the supplies which are released for us, what pressure has the government exerted through the minister's

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department or any other department to obtain the supplies supposedly destined for Canada as they leave home?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Of course the National Energy Board does not share the opinion of the hon. gentleman with regard to available supplies. We have to make certain that all supplies continue to arrive in Canada, but the fact remains that there has been a 25 per cent production cutback by the Arab exporting states, and we have had to share that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair undertook a moment ago to see the hon. member for Trinity, following which I will recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg North.

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[Later:]

INDUSTRY

SHORTAGE OF NEWSPRINT FOR WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS—
POSSIBILITY OF TAKEOVERS BY LARGER
ORGANIZATIONS

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is related to a previous question and it is in two parts. I should like to direct it to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The first part related to the shortage of newsprint for weekly newspapers which is putting pressure on them and in some cases making offers to take them over by larger organizations seem more desirable than they would be otherwise. Is the minister taking this into account in his deliberations as to how they might receive adequate supplies? The related part of my question is whether the minister is willing, during the interregnum until the foreign takeover bill is proclaimed, to give corporations which intend to make new investments in Canada or are embarking on takeovers binding rulings which would apply after the proclamation is in effect?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I think those are two different questions and I will try to deal with each in turn, if you will allow. With regard to the first part with respect to newsprint, I think the hon. member may know that the Canadian industry because of strikes has suffered a loss of some 600,000 tons of newsprint production, which has created the condition of shortage in the industry. Their deliveries to their Canadian customers are up 10 per cent; their deliveries to their foreign customers are up by a smaller amount. They are making major efforts to ensure that their Canadian customers are looked after first.

With regard to the second question concerning binding rulings prior to the first proclamation, at the present time I am not contemplating that step.