

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

**ENERGY**

## ALLEGED REDUCTIONS IN QUEBEC DELIVERIES OF HOME HEATING OIL BY GOLDEN EAGLE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Could the minister tell the House whether there is any truth behind the reports heard during the weekend in the Quebec City area about the rationing of home heating oil? Has the minister been officially advised about that possibility? This morning it was stated during a discussion on radio that Golden Eagle was reducing by 70 per cent its deliveries to independent distributors. Is the minister aware of that situation?

● (1430)

[English]

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, I have been made aware of the situation by representations from my own party and from the independent fuel marketers.

The situation has been a tight one, is a tight one and will probably continue to be a tight, difficult one for some little while. The problem has been aggravated not just by a cold winter but by serious difficulties with some of the eastern refiners. For example, the hon. member will have noted that the Gulf refinery in Montreal had a fire last week that reduced production by close to 40,000 barrels per day. There have also been difficulties with the Imperial Oil refinery and the Shell refinery in Montreal.

Special efforts have been made by the refineries, I have been assured by them, to bring heating oil into the market. For example, some of the crude that was recently offloaded at Point Tupper will be reloaded on to a tanker and moved up to Golden Eagle, close to Quebec City, and will be processed there and then moved into the Montreal market.

A number of measures of this kind are being used by the eastern refiners right now to try to improve the situation. We are doing our best to ensure that the independent marketers are being looked after by the refiners and that the refiners, for example, are not trying to secure new customers at this time but are continuing to look after the resellers so that they can look after their traditional customers.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Given his answer, the minister is surely aware of the serious situation. Just the same I should like to ask him a supplementary question. Considering that families without central heating are more seriously affected as a result of conditions experienced by independent dealers because families that use a small furnace commonly called a space heater do not have large tanks to hold supplies for several weeks but usually a 45-gallon tank which does not last

[Mr. Allmand.]

long, will the minister consider taking other steps to make sure that retailers can have sufficient heating oil to meet the needs of families whose heating systems are such as I have just described.

[English]

**Mr. Gillespie:** Mr. Speaker, we will continue to maintain our pressure on the refiners to ensure that the resellers have the oil so that they can look after the kind of situations, the difficult situations, the hardship situations, that the hon. member has referred to.

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**INDUSTRY**

## DETRIMENTAL EFFECT OF US COUNTERVAILING DUTY ON ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

**Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

As the minister knows, some 70 per cent of our exports go to the United States and we have a huge deficit of manufactured end products. The United States treasury department has just imposed a 9 per cent duty on Honeywell Limited for exporting an optical sensing system to the United States, on the grounds that this is a countervailing tariff and that Honeywell had been subsidized because they had received a PAIT research and development grant from the minister's department which is now included in the enterprise development program.

I want to ask the minister if the government has assisted Honeywell in their case so far. Are they going to see that the case is appealed? Is the government protesting to the United States government against this spurious countervailing duty on that ground, and if this situation is maintained by the United States government does it put the whole enterprise development assistance program for Canadian industry in danger?

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** First of all, Mr. Speaker, it does not put the whole enterprise development program in danger. Second, we are assisting Honeywell and we are bringing as much protest against the United States government for their action in this case as possible.

Third, we have a surplus in manufactured goods of \$3.5 billion; that is, over-all with the United States and the rest of the world.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, we have a deficit in our balance of payments and current account of over \$12 billion in manufactured end products. The minister cannot get around that.

May I put a supplementary question. The grant that the Honeywell corporation received was for research and development purposes. That has now been held to be a subsidy as contributing to assist them in introducing a commercially successful product on the market.

Will the minister tell the House whether he is going to attempt to restructure those kinds of grants to get around this