

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** I will try to do so, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

**ENERGY****BRITISH COLUMBIA TAX ON FUEL OIL**

**Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Îles de la Madeleine):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, but in his absence I shall address it to the Prime Minister.

According to the information I have, British Columbia is the only Canadian province that taxes heating oil. Would the Prime Minister urge the socialist government of British Columbia to abolish this tax immediately in the interests of consumers?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. This is obviously a representation.

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[English]

**INDUSTRY****ASSURANCE OF SUPPLY OF ETHYLENE FOR PLASTICS AND RESINS—GOVERNMENT ACTION—POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL PLANTS**

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the extreme shortage of supplies of ethylene in Canada, which were drawn to the attention of the department many months ago, and in view of the greater shortages now going to occur in the supply of plastics and resins in Canada, could the minister advise the House what steps his department is taking in order to assure Canadian users of these chemicals that they will have an adequate supply? Will he advise the House what steps he is taking with his colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and the National Energy Board to get going with the ethylene plants that have been proposed in addition to the one to which he referred this morning?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, this is a very general question. Perhaps I could say on the generality of the question that, first of all, we have taken a number of steps with the corporations and discussed with them their plans for petrochemical production in Canada. This is why I welcomed the announcement earlier today with respect to the SOAP project. We have also been discussing similar projects with interested parties in and around the Edmonton area. As the hon. member knows, Canada is a net importer of petrochemicals, and this is why we are bending every effort to ensure supplies for plastics users in Canada.

[Mr. Thomas (Moncton).]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****REASON FOR DELAY IN PROVIDING FIELD HOSPITAL FOR CANADIAN CONTINGENT IN MIDDLE EAST PEACEKEEPING FORCE**

**Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to those asked by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings of the Minister of National Defence. In the statement explaining the incident to which the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings referred the department notes, much to my surprise, that it took approximately six weeks from the time it was first indicated that Canadian troops would be involved in this force until the field hospital arrived in Egypt, despite the fact that we are supposed to have a quickly reactive, highly mobile force. Can the minister explain that?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I indicated that the first contingent did have complete medical facilities with them for a unit of that size, 400 men. The hospital was planned at the start of the operation, and it takes a little longer to move a 20-bed hospital with surgical equipment than it does to move troops.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We have reached the end of the question period. The hon. member may ask a supplementary and then I will have to call orders of the day.

**Mr. Rowland:** Mr. Speaker, I do not find that explanation satisfactory. Troops normally need hospitals. Will the minister discuss with the government House leader the feasibility of having this question of the possible inadequacy of Canadian medical facilities in the Middle East referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence for examination and report, so that the matter may be cleared up?

**Mr. Richardson:** Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased, so far as the Department of National Defence is concerned, to appear before the committee because I think the medical services that have been supplied are adequate and have been carefully planned. However, I would have to talk to the House leader before such arrangements could be made.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

**PROTECTION OF PRIVACY BILL****CREATION OF OFFENCES RELATED TO INTERCEPTION OF PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS BY CERTAIN DEVICES**

The House resumed, from Thursday, November 29, consideration of Bill C-176, to amend the Criminal Code, the Crown Liability Act and the Official Secrets Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs; and motion No. 22 (Mr. Leggatt).

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. It has to do with the report of an interchange