

Oral Questions

regarding LIP, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Knight):

That the Minister of Manpower and Immigration make a statement on motions tomorrow indicating, first, the reasons for the delay in announcing LIP projects in certain constituencies and, second, the date that these announcements will be made.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the hon. member's motion. Such a motion requires the unanimous consent of the House under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimous consent. The motion cannot be put.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*English*]

ENERGY

OIL—CONSIDERATION OF HIGHER COST IN FORMULATION OF INDUSTRIAL POLICIES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce who has spoken about the government developing a coherent set of industrial policies. I should like to ask the minister whether a part of this set of coherent industrial policies is to keep the costs of all vital forms of energy at a level to give Canada a competitive edge in processing and manufacturing?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has identified an important part of the coherent set of strategies. We have talked about energy costs both as input and as material in the development of the industries of Canada.

An hon. Member: That is incoherent.

Mr. Stanfield: If there is a competitive edge for Canada in having lower energy costs, will not the substantially higher crude oil price in eastern Canada compared with the price of crude in the rest of Canada, possibly now different by as much as \$3 a barrel, constitute a substantial disadvantage to the economy of those provinces and therefore an intensification of regional disparity? If there is a competitive edge one way, does the competitive edge not cut the other way?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question sounds rather like debate. Perhaps the minister might be allowed to reply briefly.

Mr. Gillespie: The government has made very clear, and the Prime Minister underlined this in his speech to the House the other evening, that future energy costs, particu-

[Mr. Nesdoly.]

larly those related to oil, would be so organized that one would hope there would be a major advantage in terms of input and material costs to Canadian industry. In other words, prices would be allowed to rise to such a level that self-sufficiency in supply would be maintained but not to such a level as to reach the highest international prices pertaining at the time.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question following what may fairly be referred to as an irrelevant answer to my previous question.

An hon. Member: That was a debating point, not a question.

Mr. Stanfield: I should like to ask the minister how he regards a set of industrial policies which he says is intended to fight regional disparity—he has said that is one of the set—as being coherent with a pricing policy for oil that provides a substantially higher cost for oil in the parts of Canada that suffer most from regional disparity? Will the minister reconcile those points?

Mr. Gillespie: I think that the long-term industrial development of Canada will be supported if we are able to obtain lower energy costs and lower oil costs for petrochemical industries and other energy intensive industries across this nation.

Mr. Hees: Get out your violin.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Central Nova on a supplementary and then the hon. member for Selkirk.

ACTION TO OFFSET EFFECT OF HIGHER OIL COST ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN EASTERN CANADA

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has he a specific policy on regional development that would link energy commodity prices with regional development strategy? In other words, what initiatives has the minister taken to cope with the energy situation in eastern Canada in the context of DREE?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hope the minister will be able to reply to this question briefly. It seems to me the hon. member is inviting a rather general statement which should be made on motions.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in replying as briefly as I can may I say that one of the criteria which will be definitely taken into account in the future is the whole question of operating costs in relation to the level of incentive grants and other assistance that is provided. In that context I have no doubt that this will be one of the main considerations that we will examine in cases where new applications for incentives come forward. It is quite possible that in our consultations with the provinces with regard to general help in regional development this may be one of the central considerations that they will bring forward. I am sure the Prime Minister will be doing the