

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSAL TO ASK ARABS TO SET HIGH PRICE FOR OIL TO PROTECT SYNCRUDE INVESTORS

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): My question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the same subject. In view of the fact that the government has now reversed its policy and in so far as the Syncrude operation is concerned has wired this nation into a permanent high price policy on oil and oil energy, has the minister given any thought to approaching the Secretary of State of the United States, Mr. Kissinger, to tell him that the Canadian government, in order to protect the investors in the Syncrude enterprise, would support Mr. Kissinger's proposal to ask the Arabs to join us in setting a high price for oil so that we will not lose our shirts?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I think the answer to that question is no, Mr. Speaker.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

POSSIBILITY OF STRIKES—EFFORTS OF MINISTER TO AVOID

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the fact that union leaders have recommended the rejection of a conciliation report which would give federal employees in certain categories increases of approximately 26 per cent over a two year period, and because it now appears imminent that this report will be rejected on a national basis and will culminate in a nation wide strike as early as this Friday, will the minister inform the House whether or not he has met with officials of the Public Service Alliance in an effort to avoid the consequences of a work stoppage in these essential services, and will he also inform us of the progress, if any, that was made at these meetings, if in fact they have been held?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I have not met the official representatives of the alliance because that is one of the tasks of the officials of my department. I believe they are holding talks today. We have received a report from the conciliator. The government representative supports that majority report. We had hoped that the union representative would do the same. As for us, we have not yet taken position on the report.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): The minister has indicated that he has not yet met with the officials. Would he inform us whether that is within the realm of possible action by the minister, and would he tell us why he has not met with them sooner, particularly in view of the fact that only four days stand between today and the possible work stoppage on Friday?

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, we are doing everything in our power to avoid a strike. My officials are in touch with the alliance and I fail to see why I should intervene personally.

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[English]

ENERGY

URANIUM—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE OF SAFEGUARDS IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE EXPORT TO FRANCE

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Would he indicate the nature of the discussions regarding the export of uranium currently taking place between Eldorado Nuclear, a Crown corporation, and Seru, the nuclear agency of the government of France. Will he assure the House that export of uranium to France remains conditional on meeting the requirements that he set out on December 20, 1974 with regard to IAEA and NPT and the conditions explicitly guaranteed by the late L. B. Pearson in this House on June 4, 1965?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Am I to take from the minister's answer that there are indeed discussions going on between Eldorado Nuclear and Seru, the nuclear agency of the government of France, regarding the export of uranium from Canada?

● (1430)

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I would have to check with that proprietary corporation to see with whom it has negotiations, but I would confirm that the safeguards as set out at such length by the hon. member would apply, of course, to any transaction negotiated, not only by Eldorado, but by any other Canadian producer.

URANIUM—KNOWLEDGE OF GOVERNMENT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ELDORADO AND FRANCE

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Could the minister state whether discussions of this nature could be taking place between Eldorado and an agency of the government of France without the minister's knowledge?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Yes, indeed, Mr. Speaker. The management of Eldorado has been entrusted with the responsibility of managing the property and marketing its production, and of course any application for export by Eldorado, as with any other uranium company, would be covered by the existing law. The periodic reports I receive from the president of that corporation would give me some indication of the line of his policy.