

that Canada can, at long last, move toward having its own merchant marine, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard):

That this House express its appreciation for this action.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's motion is proposed to the House under the terms of Standing Order 43 and requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is not unanimity.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ENERGY

OIL—REPORTED INTENTION OF VENEZUELA TO CUT BACK ON EXPORTS TO CANADA—POSITION OF GOVERNMENT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources I will direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister who I am sure is fully in the picture, as usual. I would ask him if Venezuelan oil coming to Canada has been cut back as announced and, if so, to what extent? Has the government of Canada sought an explanation for this action?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of what the Leader of the Opposition has just said but I will examine these reports to see what substance there is to them and endeavour to obtain an answer for him.

Mr. Stanfield: Is it the intention of the government to have the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources visit Venezuela once again or is it the intention of the Acting Prime Minister in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs to state Canada's case to Venezuela?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, if it is necessary to state Canada's case I will, of course, do so. I intend to be in Venezuela for the opening of the Law of the Sea Conference, but it may be necessary to take action before then if there is substance to what the Leader of the Opposition has said.

Mr. Stanfield: In view of the efforts of the government in the past year to offset possible shortages of oil by the government making contracts through the office of the Minister of Supply and Services, will the Acting Prime Minister inform the House whether the government is considering requesting the Minister of Supply and Services to contract for any more Roumanian oil to offset this difference?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I think it is very significant that Canada is one of the few countries in the world that did not experience any shortage of oil or gasoline.

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sharp: I think that the people of Canada, if not the Leader of the Opposition, are probably grateful. I have no hesitation in saying that if a similar kind of emergency arises in the future we will take whatever steps are necessary to protect the people of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Mr. Speaker—
[Translation]

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): On a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: As usual, I shall try to complete the first round of questions, then I shall recognize the hon. member in a moment.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): I should like to put a supplementary to the minister.

Mr. Speaker: I do not want to make any difficulty. However, the hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway would perhaps allow me to recognize the hon. member for Témiscamingue, if he would sit down for the moment. The hon. member for Témiscamingue may have noticed that in the last few days on his own suggestion, I tried to limit the supplementaries to the first question in order to come quicker to his subject, and I rely on his co-operation.

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[English]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

REFUSAL TO ACCEPT TELEVISION ADVERTISING OF CONTRACEPTIVES—POSITION OF GOVERNMENT

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I would be very willing to have the hon. member for Témiscamingue go first because my question does not have anything to do with the first question.

Mr. Speaker: Such generosity is very impressive. The hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): In fact, the type of question I usually ask is responded to more enthusiastically, so I hope I do not disappoint people. At this time when responsible people are anxious for the knowledge and the means to space and limit the number of their children, is the government aware—this is to the Minister of Communications—that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation refuses to accept television advertising of contraceptives on the ground that this would be controversial? If the government is aware of this policy, is it in agreement with it?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, if the content of programs on the CBC is the concern of any minister, it would be my colleague, the Secretary of State. I do not know that the CRTC, for