

*Oral Questions*

**Miss MacDonald:** That was not the question.

**Mr. Waddell:** I will rephrase my question. Can there ever again be a National Energy Program which, while criticized, saved billions of dollars for Canadian motorists? Forget the oil company line. At the time of an energy crisis will the federal Government be able to enact a national energy program which would accomplish the same as the previous energy program, which was to have a different made-in-Canada price for Canadian consumers?

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, I would hope not. I hope we never have to put up with a National Energy Program like that.

The Hon. Member stands up and talks about saving money for the drivers of this country. He does not talk about the unemployment insurance costs for all those people in the West who were put out of work by the National Energy Program, or the people who lost homes and businesses. He does not talk about that loss.

## WATER RESOURCES LEGISLATION

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. As recently as 1985 the Prime Minister of Canada stated in an interview with *Fortune* magazine, when asked about water exports from Canada: "Why not, if it is economically desirable?" Yesterday the Minister of Communications indicated outside the House that a piece of legislation on the federal water policy would be forthcoming. Today the Deputy Prime Minister indicated that the legislation is in a well advanced stage. Given these facts, will the Deputy Prime Minister indicate when this legislation will be introduced in the House?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, there is certainly nothing new in what has been said today and what was said yesterday. It was contained in the water policy statement of November, 1987, at page 24. I would ask the Hon. Member to consider reading it.

The fact is that the legislative and regulatory measures that are required to implement the federal water policy are in an advanced stage. I will certainly check with the Minister of the Environment as soon as he returns to see what particular time it may be introduced. Work is proceeding, consistent with what we have done on many other important issues, be it child care, tax reform, broadcast policy, film and video, or transportation. All of these things have been done in the same consistent manner.

**Mr. Caccia:** We may have to wait some time, judging from the record of attendance of the Minister of the Environment.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member is a very experienced Member and has made a great contribution to this place. He knows that that is not an appropriate observation. Will the Hon. Member please put his question.

## TIMING OF LEGISLATION'S INTRODUCTION

**Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Considering the importance of the matter and considering that the preparation of the legislation is in a well advanced stage as he says, and considering the deadline of January, 1989, when will this legislation be introduced in the House? It is a very reasonable question.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, we have always considered this water policy and the accompanying legislation as being very important. We have been working at it. It is amazing to me that just in the last week or so it has attracted the attention of the opposition Parties. It has always been a priority of this Government and will continue to be a priority.

I will take the Hon. Member's representation and make his views known, to see whether we can expedite the process. I give him that assurance.

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## AGRICULTURE

## ALBERTA—SAY STINK BUG INFESTATION

**Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Hon. Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds. The Say Stink Bug is threatening the crops of hundreds of farmers in Alberta and the bugs have already completely destroyed the wheat crops on some 60 sections of land. Millions of these green bugs will reach maturity within days and swarm to other areas.

Will the Minister co-operate with the Government of Alberta, take immediate steps to stop this infestation, and assist the farmers who have already spent about \$100,000 trying to stop these bugs?

**Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)):** Mr. Speaker, this is a serious problem for the farmers affected. The federal Department of Agriculture is aware of the problem and has been working through the research station at Lethbridge with the Province of Alberta. It is my understanding that some spraying has already been carried out.

We are prepared to spray again if there is a reinfestation. Fortunately, this is a rather rare occurrence. I am told that the last infestation goes back to the early 1950's. The bugs thrive on weeds, which have done particularly well this year.