

Oral Questions

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the anti-combines legislation in Canada is totally ineffective, could the minister inform the House whether he would be prepared under the Inquiries Act to conduct an inquiry into the whole operation of all companies in Canada and the price mechanism which they are using in the closed market in which they are operating?

Mr. Gray: I do not accept the hon. member's premise regarding the effectiveness of the existing act, although I hope it presages support by himself and his party for new legislation in this area in due course. I think that the points he has mentioned are of the kind that could be covered in the inquiry to which I have already referred.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will be recognized for a last supplementary question, after which I will recognize the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte.

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ENERGY**SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): In view of the fact that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is missing from the House, I will direct my question to the Prime Minister. Could the Prime Minister inform the House if the government is continuing to study the idea of establishing a national petroleum company which would venture into the market in Canada and create competition, thus bringing down price levels?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the government is studying many matters, but I do not care to go into details about what precisely is occupying cabinet at this time.

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INDUSTRY**ALLEGED SHORTAGE OF EDIBLE OILS—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ALLEVIATE**

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Has he received a telegram from the Institute of Edible Oil Foods in respect of the shortage of supply of edible oils for the Canadian food industry?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, it has not crossed my desk.

Mr. McCain: I should like to ask a supplementary question. Since there is a shortage of supply of this material I should like to ask the minister what measures he feels might be taken to ensure an adequate supply of edible oils for the food industry's requirements in baking, frying, packaging, processing, manufacturing, and other operations which require these oils in the preparation of foods for the consumer market.

[Mr. Gray.]

Mr. Speaker: I think that the information sought by the hon. member should be given to the House, if it has to be given, by way of a statement on motions.

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CITIZENSHIP**DISENFRANCHISEMENT OF BRITISH SUBJECTS—POSSIBLE STEPS TO FACILITATE APPLICATIONS FOR CITIZENSHIP**

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. Two weeks ago I asked the minister about the plight facing many thousands of British subjects who have been long time residents of Canada but have not taken out citizenship. Specifically, I asked the minister what steps his department had planned to take to inform these British subjects of their disenfranchisement and, second, what steps will be taken to expedite any applications for citizenship on the part of those who desire to apply.

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, there are several elements in response to that question. I have signed a letter to the hon. member today which is rather complete. If he wishes, I can summarize it now, but perhaps he would like to wait until he receives the letter.

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FISHERIES**NEWFOUNDLAND—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO FISHERMEN WHO SUFFERED LOSSES AS RESULT OF STORM**

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment and Fisheries. Can the minister tell the House if he has received a request from the government of Newfoundland for assistance to fishermen who have suffered severe losses as a result of the storm on June 17.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, yes, and I believe a further submission along these lines is being made today by a minister from Newfoundland to the Department of Finance in Ottawa.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION OF PRIME MINISTER ON BEHALF OF RONALD PATRICK LIPPETT IMPRISONED IN CUBA**

Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. Would he indicate now whether he would be willing personally to intervene on humanitarian grounds on behalf of Ronald Patrick Lippert, a Canadian who has now served ten years of a lengthy 30 year sentence as a political prisoner in a Cuban prison, in view of the possibilities of amnesty for this man as part of the forthcoming celebrations in Cuba to mark