

*Interim Supply*

on the amount of Canadian oil going into the United States market; that it provided a very severe limitation which would prevent any substantial increase in exports of oil in 1963. So a discussion took place in the city of Ottawa, and on Friday, December 14 the Minister of Trade and Commerce made a report to this House of Commons. In this report he gave us, in my judgment, no information. He said that the discussions had been useful and informative and had provided an opportunity for the United States representatives to explain the recent proclamation. He went on to say, as reported on page 2671 of *Hansard*:

The two delegations noted that no change has been made in the overland exemption for oil which permits sales of Canadian oil in United States markets without licensing.

Then the hon. member for Ottawa West and I tried to get from the Minister of Trade and Commerce some further elucidation as to whether the proclamation by the President of the United States adversely affected the opportunity to increase exports of Canadian oil in 1963.

The minister gave us little information last Monday when we were asking these questions. I asked him a supplementary question, as found at page 2718 of *Hansard*:

I have a further supplementary question. I wonder would the minister be prepared to say to the house whether, in the opinion of the government, the U.S. president's recent proclamation affecting oil imports in the United States does in fact place a limit on increases in the exports of Canadian oil to the United States?

The minister replied as follows:

I would like to repeat to the hon. member, in answer to that question, part of what I said in the house on Friday last. I said:

"The two delegates noted that no change has been made in the overland exemption for oil which permits sales of Canadian oil in United States markets without licensing."

The Minister of Trade and Commerce was not frank, in my judgment, with the House of Commons, he was not frank with the Canadian people. There had been negotiations between the government of Canada and the government of the United States, and the Canadian government had failed to get from the United States any relaxation of this recent order. In my judgment the strength of the Canadian government in negotiations such as these comes from an informed public and an informed House of Commons. But this government is so interested in politics and in hiding the facts from the Canadian people that the Minister of Trade and Commerce did not give us a frank statement in the house, and there is now no opportunity for Canadians in a forthright way to register their dissatisfaction with a proclamation which so severely limits our sale of oil in the United

States market in 1963 and prevents in the future anything like the increase which we have been able to register in recent years.

I think there is every indication that this government is more interested in party political warfare than in doing a good job for the Canadian people. On a former occasion this session I pointed out that in the administration of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act in this country it had been made clear to P.F.A.A. inspectors that they would be required to do political work on behalf of the Conservative party, and that to those who have been hired into that organization it has been made clear that they are to be supporters of the government in office. This is a political machine, and it has been made a political machine by the Minister of Agriculture in the administration of this act.

I have information to the effect that Conservative members of parliament have been invited to and have attended meetings of the prairie farm assistance inspectors and have spoken at those meetings at schools in which the P.F.A.A. inspectors were being instructed in how to take crops reports. I say to this government that the P.F.A.A. machinery is or should be different from the Tory campaign political machinery, and that members of parliament from any party have no business being at such conferences and speaking in a political fashion at them. For various administrative posts of the government in connection with agriculture new people have recently been hired. In almost every instance they have been prominent Conservatives, and this seems to be an essential qualification.

In order to show what this government thinks of the ordinary administration of government and how it can be used in a political sense, may I say this. When the Minister of Agriculture wished to go to Regina some time ago, early in November, in order to speak to the Saskatchewan wheat pool, the Department of Transport plane was used by the minister; and on that plane for this junket were six Conservative members of parliament with a couple of wives for good measure. I see no evidence of anybody from any other political party. I do not think this is the use that should be made of a Department of Transport plane. I do not think this is a plane which should be considered by hon. members opposite as though it belonged to Conservative party headquarters, and that when it goes some place it should be loaded up with Conservative members of parliament in order to go out to do their political work.

That is another indication of the attitude of the government in using the machinery of government in a political way. However, they go even further. They believe that informa-

[Mr. Argue.]