

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

now resolved and the trains are running on the normal schedule again. As for possible disruption, I do not believe there was anything of any great consequence during the period of the dispute.

**TAXATION****WHITE PAPER PROPOSALS AFFECTING OIL AND NATURAL GAS—STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES**

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance and to preface it with a reference to encouraging Canadian investment in our own industry. I should like to quote one sentence from page 26 of a speech.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I hope the hon. member will not get us involved in the same difficulties we had yesterday. He has to ask his question directly. If he is going to refer to a speech, it should be by way of asking the Acting Prime Minister whether that speech made outside the House reflects government policy.

**Mr. Woolliams:** May I put the question then without referring to the speech because I am sure the Minister of Finance has read it. In view of the fact that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said that the petroleum and natural gas industries will be put at no disadvantage by the taxes to be implemented by Canada under the white paper proposals compared with the United States tax system dealing with depletion allowances and capital gains, has the minister withdrawn all that part of the white paper which would put these industries at such a disadvantage?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Without agreeing to the conclusion stated in the hon. member's question, I have not proposed the withdrawal of any sections of the white paper.

**Mr. Woolliams:** May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Was the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources stating government policy in the United States when he made that statement which appears on page 26 of his speech?

**Mr. Speaker:** Of course the Minister of Finance is not authorized to reply to that question under the Standing Orders. This question can be asked of the Acting Prime Minister.

[Mr. Jamieson.]

**Mr. Woolliams:** Then I will ask the Acting Prime Minister, who changes from day to day, whether he can assure us that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources was stating government policy when he made that statement which appears on page 26 of his speech made recently in the United States?

**Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Acting Prime Minister):** I am not sufficiently familiar with his speech to identify it by page numbers. I will, however, be very glad to have the particular sentence in the speech to which reference has been made looked at and an answer given to the question subsequently.

**Mr. Woolliams:** In view of the fact that the statement is made in one sentence—and I know what the privileges of hon. members are when they refer to matters such as this—may I quote that one sentence so that the Acting Prime Minister will be informed of it in the House?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There is no objection to this. What I was suggesting to the hon. member was that the question in the first instance should have been directed to the Acting Prime Minister. I see no difficulty in asking it in those terms at this time.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I will read it to the Acting Prime Minister. The minister said:

In particular, I cannot see that it would legislate a tax climate in which the Canadian petroleum industry would be put at any significantly increased disadvantage compared with the industry in the United States.

My question is whether the minister in that sentence at page 26 of his speech was setting out government policy?

**Mr. McIlraith:** I think it would be obvious to hon. members that he was.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Fairweather:** There goes the white paper.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have to ask for the co-operation of the hon. member. We are running short of time, and I invite him to ask his supplementary question as quickly as possible. We will go on to another question thereafter.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I know this is a most embarrassing situation for the government. I can see why they would not want any more supplementary questions. I wonder whether I