

foreigners to buy more of our nickel? For example, what are we doing about selling nickel to Japan which wants our coal in such great quantities? What is the policy of the government in this respect?

Mr. Jamieson: Well, Mr. Speaker, we are moving on virtually all of those fronts that the hon. member talked about.

Mr. Hees: But you are moving backwards, Don.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, it is better that we are moving backwards than be like the hon. gentleman who does not seem to have moved at all in the last 20 years and is still uttering the same vacuous comments that he was when he first came to the House.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Hees: You badly need new life, Don.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I started to answer that we are moving on a number of fronts and have been for some time. Within UNCTAD and the various meetings that have been convened in connection with the north-south conference we have been talking about various forms of commodity agreements, price stabilization and market access. It is a very complex subject. I think some of the documents have been published. I will be glad to make available what we can provide additionally.

● (1142)

In addition to that, of course, there are also our bilateral negotiations with countries such as Japan and the European Economic Community. We have been seeking in these markets to get greater access for our raw materials. I should also remind the hon. member that while this problem is pressing as of this moment, we have also been seeking, with the general encouragement of hon. members opposite, to develop a kind of commodity strategy so that indeed we will not continue to be simply supplying raw materials but will also be able to get into a sectoral approach which will give us some outside markets for our finished and semi-finished products.

If I may be permitted one other comment, Mr. Speaker, another most important area where we are very active at the moment is in connection with the Law of the Sea Conference and the potential impact insofar as seabed mining is concerned on land based mineral operations. This is as comprehensive an answer as I can give in the question period, but I will be glad to expand on it.

Mr. Gillies: I am delighted with this dissertation but I would have liked an answer to my question, which is: Is Canada taking the leadership in the development of a producer's agreement in nickel? We do not want to be surprised.

An hon. Member: You broke the law and you know it.

An hon. Member: You gave us no answer.

Mr. Chrétien: This is exactly the same thing.

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

EXTENSION OF CREDIT TO INCO TO DEVELOP INDONESIAN OPERATION—PROTECTION OF CANADIAN JOBS

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Since INCO has invested \$850 million in the first stage of its new Indonesian operation and the Export Development Corporation has provided a total of \$90 million in credit, can the minister say whether there was any consultation within the government to ensure that priority is given to protect Canadian jobs before external commitments are made?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I am sure that full weight was given to the impact of our assistance to overseas countries in terms, as the hon. member has put it, of the protection of Canadian jobs. But if I am not putting the wrong interpretation on the hon. member's question, I find it reflects the same kind of inconsistency in that on the one hand he asks us to do everything we can to protect jobs within Canada but on the other hand the hon. gentleman, who is the main spokesman of the party opposite, is asking us to help developing countries to get on their own feet and to assist them in those areas where they can have economic development. This, I believe, is one of the great difficulties. I do not recall at this precise moment what discussions went on as to the effect of Indonesian developments on the Canadian market, but I have no doubt that this was a consideration.

Mr. Roche: The minister is bold enough to quote inconsistencies, but nothing is more inconsistent than the foreign policy of this government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Roche: May I ask the minister to explain to the House his reference on the national television three days ago to the effect that, with respect to foreign policy, Canada intends to carry a big stick and speak with a loud voice. Can he explain how that fits in with the whole question of commodity agreements, which is also at the heart of the answer he attempted to give to the hon. member for Don Valley?

Mr. Jamieson: In the first place, I did not say what the hon. member has attributed to me.

An hon. Member: I wrote it down.

Mr. Jamieson: It was a conclusion drawn by the interviewer, and if the hon. member wrote it down, then I would like to see it. I would be prepared to make a total and abject apology to the hon. member if I am wrong, but I ask him to do precisely the same thing if he is wrong, and I suggest he is 100 per cent wrong.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): This does not help the workers in Sudbury.