

Business of the House

Argentina, initially Canadian fuel will be used, although the option remains for that country to use Argentine uranium. In connection with the South Korean sale, this will be entirely Canadian uranium.

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SHIPPING**STANDARDS RESPECTING TANKERS MOVING ALBERTA OIL FROM VANCOUVER TO EAST COAST**

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, my question might be supplementary to the original question about the movement of oil from the port of Vancouver. I direct it to the Prime Minister. On the matter of moving oil by tanker from west coast ports through the Panama Canal to the east coast, was the Minister of the Environment enunciating government policy when he said that any oil tanker used to transport oil from west coast ports to any port on the east coast would be required, at the very least, to meet the standards for oil tankers adopted at the recent IMCO conference in London? Was he stating government policy when he made that announcement?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would have to check with the minister as to the exact terms of the announcement, but on the face of it the minister was certainly speaking as the minister responsible for the environment in putting before not only his colleagues in parliament but the people of Canada his express wishes as Minister of the Environment.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will be recognized on a last supplementary question, after which the Chair will call orders of the day.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport in respect of the response just made by the Prime Minister. Inasmuch as it is government policy that these stringent standards be met, why is the Department of Transport not following up this matter and requiring ships moving oil in and out of the port of Vancouver to meet the standards set out in this government policy?

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**WEEKLY STATEMENT**

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the usual Thursday question about the order of business, if this is the proper stage of the proceedings to do so. I ask the government House leader what we can look forward to in the next few days, even though we do have some idea of the business, particularly in respect of the wiretap bill for which we have indicated our support.

Mr. MacEachen: As I indicated earlier today, Mr. Speaker, the business before the House is Bill C-245, an act to impose a charge on the export of crude oil. That item

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosendale).]

will be kept before the House for the time allotted and it is completed. Hopefully, at that point we will be able to again give consideration to the oil allocation bill. I have not yet reached any conclusion as to when the wiretap bill might be brought back before the House, but I would be happy to consider with hon. members opposite ways that might make it possible to deal with it quickly.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in respect of the order of business for the coming days, and in particular in respect of the last point to which the government House leader referred, may I ask whether the government is considering, as a means of saving time, substituting for the notice that is now on the order paper in the name of the Minister of Justice a notice simply rejecting the Senate amendment to the wiretap bill so that the House can reaffirm the position it took when the bill was before this House?

Mr. MacEachen: No, Mr. Speaker, the government is not considering that point at the moment.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order in relation to the last question I put to the Minister of Transport who was a bit slow in rising to his feet although it seemed he was rising to reply to the question. I see he has now disappeared, so perhaps the point of order has no validity, but certainly the minister should be required to reply to the question as to why this policy of the government is not being followed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

OIL EXPORT CHARGE ACT**PROVISION OF EXPORT CHARGE, OIL EXPORT TAX UNDER EXCISE ACT AND ALLOCATION OF REVENUES FROM TAX**

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance) moved that Bill C-245, to impose a charge on the export of crude oil from Canada, to impose an oil export tax under the Excise Tax Act and to allocate certain of the revenues derived from the oil export tax, be read the second time and referred to committee of the whole.

He said: Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to use this occasion to wish you and the members of the House a Happy New Year. I wish Your Honour every good fortune in presiding over the affairs of this legislature. I noted the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) in congratulating the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and Madame Trudeau on the birth of their second son. He mentioned the question of timing. It only illustrates that this government can do almost anything, Mr. Speaker. I do not take anything away from the notable achievements of the Leader of the Opposition in having become a grandfather during the recess. All I can say is that the difference between the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister is just one of attitude.

● (1510)

Mr. Alexander: I don't get that, John.