

Oral Questions

● (1110)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SALE BY WEST GERMANY TO BRAZIL OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS—ADEQUACY OF SAFEGUARDS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Secretary of State, in the absence of the Secretary of State, relating to the sale being negotiated by West Germany to Brazil of a very large package of nuclear facilities, materials, reactors, enrichment facilities and separation plants. In view of the controversial nature of this sale and safeguards surrounding it, can the Acting Secretary of State or the Prime Minister say whether the government of Canada has inquired from its friendly ally, West Germany, what the safeguards are relating to this arrangement?

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member wishes to direct his question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, not the Secretary of State.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): I think the Leader of the Opposition inadvertently directed his question to the wrong minister, but I will answer it. I gather it was directed to the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. The government has had some discussions with Germany about co-operation in applying safeguards. We have had very good co-operation on that.

Mr. Stanfield: My supplementary question is directed to the same minister or to the Prime Minister. Has the government of Canada, through its responsible minister, whoever he may happen to be, inquired from our friendly and presumably responsive ally, West Germany, as to the safeguards surrounding this contract for nuclear facilities and materials?

Mr. Sharp: It is my understanding that the German government believes it is establishing safeguards that are in full accord with international standards.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I am being offensive in asking the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs to answer my question. Has the government of Canada inquired as to specifically what these safeguards are that West Germany proposes for this arrangement? I ask this question particularly because the United States has protested against those safeguards being inadequate. I therefore ask whether the government of Canada has even inquired as to what specifically these safeguards are and, having obtained this information, has it made any comment on these safeguards to our ally, West Germany?

Mr. Sharp: I think I did attempt to answer this question. The government of Canada has had discussions with the government of Germany about the safeguards that it does apply on the supply of its technology to all countries,

[Mr. Speaker.]

including Brazil. We have no reason to believe that they are not fully in accordance with international standards.

ADMISSION BY EXXON TO UNITED STATES SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLITICAL PARTIES—SUGGESTION CANADA REQUEST COPIES OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Since Imperial Oil of Canada, in conjunction with the hearings of a committee in the United States senate, acknowledged recently that they had given more than \$1 million to three political parties in Canada, and since Exxon, the parent firm in the United States, has acknowledged that millions of dollars were given by them to political parties in Italy for the express purpose of obtaining tax concessions and other legal benefits, would the Prime Minister request our embassy in the United States to obtain for Canada all documents and testimony on this subject from the U.S. senate subcommittee looking into multinational corporations?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will gladly relate that question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

DONATIONS BY IMPERIAL OIL TO POLITICAL PARTIES—REQUEST LIBERAL PARTY MAKE PUBLIC AMOUNT RECEIVED

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Considering that a senior official of Imperial Oil of Canada acknowledged at a recent stockholders meeting in Toronto that his company has been giving money for a number of years to political parties in Canada supporting this company's political philosophy, and considering that the Election Expenses Act came into force only last summer, would the Prime Minister undertake on behalf of this party to make public the total amount of money the Liberal party has received from Imperial Oil and other oil companies during the period from 1968 to 1975?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I have answered that type of question many times and indicated that it was in order to ensure that present and future donations were known that the Liberal party brought in the election expenses legislation a few years ago.

Some hon. Members: Parliament did that.

Mr. Trudeau: Of course; the first version of it was blocked by the opposition, but finally we got a version through about a year or so ago. We do not intend to apply this legislation retroactively.