

on that committee? If this was the case, can he tell the House who that person was?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, this committee reports to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and I think the question ought to be referred to him.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Sharp:** This was a government decision to establish the committee.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I will have to apologize to the Leader of the Opposition. I was in conversation and did not hear the full question.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, my question was directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It was a very simple question. I asked whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs, when the technical advisory committee on petroleum supply and demand was established, designated a person to represent his department on that committee. If this was the case, will he tell us the name of that person? I think this is a question that only the Secretary of State for External Affairs can answer.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, my information is there were representatives of a number of departments designated on this committee. Except for Mr. Jack Stabback, a member of the National Energy Board, I am afraid I cannot say who the individuals were at the moment. However, representatives of various departments have been designated.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I have frequently been critical of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, but I do not think I can properly criticize him in this regard. I am directing the question to the minister in charge of the department concerned and asking him whether he designated a specific person to represent his department on this committee and, if so, will he tell us who this individual is. This is a perfectly simple, straightforward question that the minister can either answer or not answer.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, if I may attempt to answer this question, I was not asked by the cabinet to designate an official on the committee. The government established a committee which included a representative of the Department of External Affairs. As the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has said, I do not know who it is who has been designated for this purpose.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hees:** Nobody knows what is going on.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hees:** I know a hell of a lot more than you guys. I know who the fellow is.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### Oral Questions

**Mr. Stanfield:** The Secretary of State for External Affairs has finally said he does not know. I accept that he does not know. However, I wish to ask the minister whether he receives regular written reports from the representative of the Department of External Affairs sitting on this technical advisory committee on the deliberations of the committee. I ask that question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs in view of the obvious importance, or what ought to be the obvious importance, to the minister of the deliberations of this committee with regard to his responsibilities as Secretary of State for External Affairs of this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, the Department of External Affairs is represented on many inter-departmental committees and this is one of them.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Sharp:** In the ordinary course of events, these reports would be made to the head of the department if he himself were not attending. If he felt there was some matter of importance to bring to my attention, he would do so.

● (1420)

**Mr. Stanfield:** In view of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources having stated that the decision he took with regard to seeking mandatory allocation measures was founded upon the advice of the technical advisory committee with regard to supply from abroad from Arab and other sources, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he was specifically informed by the representative of his department on this committee that the committee would give the advice that Canada would have to share not only in the direct cut-back of oil to Canada from Arab sources but also share in the general world shortfall from Arab sources? Was the minister given this information, or did he interest himself enough to make inquiries?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may answer the question in this way. My colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, has put before the House the worst possible situation that might arise—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Sharp:** —if we were to be cut off from the supplies of oil we would otherwise have expected. In this respect I think he was very wise as it is most important the public should understand, not a view which might be overtaken by events but the sort of contingency this country might have to face. I believe this was a wise decision on his part and I fully support the way in which he has presented it.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Sharp:** The minister has also said that he does not yet have any reason to believe that these circumstances will arise.