

the hon. member for Calgary North to the Minister of Finance. Since the minister has clearly indicated that he does not intend to dictate to either of the two committees studying the tax proposals, may I ask whether the hon. gentleman has suggested a date by which the committees should complete their studies in order that the subject matter could then come back to the House and the legislation proceed, bearing in mind the target date of January 1, 1971, which the minister has announced.

Mr. Benson: I have not, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nowlan: Then we and the chairmen of the respective committees may understand that the period during which these important proposals can be studied is not limited by the suggestion of the minister that the legislation should proceed by January 1, 1971, but that the date will depend on when the two committees report on the proposals before them?

Mr. Benson: I indicated earlier what our target date would be for implementing tax reform proposals. The committees know that date. But I am not in a position to dictate to committees—

Mr. Stanfield: That's right. Better leave it at that. You are not in a position.

Mr. Benson: At least I have a position for a while.

Mr. Hees: There is still the next election.

OIL

STATEMENT BY U.S. OFFICIAL ON SECURITY OF SUPPLY IN WESTERN CANADA

Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It arises out of a statement of Mr. Philip H. Trezise, United States Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, relating to the recent imposition of import quotas with respect to Canadian oil. Does the Canadian government share the view that one of the substantive reasons for such action is a lack of security of oil supplies in western Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that the question is not phrased properly. Perhaps the hon. member might like to reword it. He is inviting the minister to express an academic opinion. Perhaps the question might be reworded.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Mahoney: Mr. Speaker, does the Canadian government feel that there is a shortage of emergency supplies of oil in western Canada?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the National Energy Board is the custodian of the public interest in that regard, and if at any time it feels or believes on the basis of the scientific information available that there is such a shortage of supply it can, of course, cut off exports and divert the available supply and pipeline capacity to Canadian needs.

Mr. Mahoney: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Was the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs of the United States correct in stating that the United States government anticipated Canadian government action vis-à-vis this situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as asked is not in order.

ENERGY

URANIUM—EFFECT OF REPORT OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE POLICY

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has the minister yet been apprised of the contents of the report of the Special Committee of the Senate on Science Policy, which is purported to bear directly on the operations of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and which may further affect the uranium industry?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not been apprised of the report. I have seen press statements from time to time, but that is all, with regard to the work of that august body.

FISHERIES

DAMAGE TO SEAL HERDS AND FISHING RESOURCES BY CHEDABUCTO BAY OIL POLLUTION—DATE OF SEAL HUNT

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. What is the extent of the damage caused to the great seal herds off the east coast as a consequence of the oil pollution in Chedabucto Bay, Nova Scotia? The second part of my question relates