

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED ACCESS TO CANADA'S NATURAL RESOURCES AS
PRICE OF LINK WITH EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I wonder if he would remove a little of the secrecy involved in Canadian diplomacy in connection with the demand by Denmark and other European countries to the effect that, with regard to the European common market link or any floor price for oil, Canada should give to European countries the same access to our energy resources as Canadians. I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs precisely what assurance Canada has given.

● (1410)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The question raised by the Leader of the Opposition came up during the discussion at the International Energy Agency particularly on the issue of the adopting of the long term program. Canada, because of the implications to which the hon. gentleman has referred, sought and received an exemption from paragraph five of the long term program which may have had implications affecting access on equal terms as Canadians. In the meantime, while this was going on in the International Agency, a reserve was entered by Denmark at the Council of Ministers which was considering a mandate for the beginning of negotiations with Canada. As I understand the position, that reserve has now been withdrawn by the Danish government and the way is now clear for Canada to begin negotiations with the Council on the contractual link. Specifically, the matter raised by the Leader of the Opposition has been resolved to the satisfaction of the Canadian government.

Mr. Stanfield: What I want to know is what assurance the government of Canada has given to the members of the European Economic Council and to other countries involved in the International Energy Agency so that this matter might be resolved in terms satisfactory to the Canadian government but completely unknown to the Canadian people.

Mr. MacEachen: Assurances have not been given by the Canadian government beyond the adoption of the long-term program, apart from chapter five, from which Canada has been clearly exempted by the governing body of the International Energy Agency. We have not given any assurance beyond our general commitment within the long-term program. In other words, we have not traded an exemption from chapter five.

Mr. Stanfield: Is the hon. gentleman saying that Canada has given no assurance to other members of the International Energy Agency and no assurance to members of the European Economic Community with regard to access to Canadian energy resources?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. MacEachen: In the terms described by the Leader of the Opposition in his initial question, the answer is no. Certainly that was the issue which was before the government and before the governing board—whether Canada would undertake explicitly the obligations imposed by chapter five. We declined to do that, and were exempted. That is the situation in the International Energy Agency which is an institution aside and apart from the Community. When we begin negotiations for the contractual link with the Community the question of access will probably come up again, and at that time Canada will have to take its position in the particular context of those discussions. But that bridge has not been reached yet.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY—CONSIDERATION OF
MANUFACTURED GOODS IN DISCUSSIONS ON CONTRACTUAL
LINK

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. From conversations that I had in Brussels last year, the prime interest of common market officials seemed to be a long-term, secure source of supply at fixed prices for raw resources and semi-finished resources, such as iron ore pellets, copper, uranium, pulpwood and petroleum. At present we have a \$9 billion trade deficit in manufactured goods. To what extent will manufactured goods figure in the discussions?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the negotiations which will begin with the Community will seek to establish a contractual agreement with, on the one hand, the Community and, on the other hand, Canada. There are three general areas of discussion that have been identified. One, of course, is the question of industrial and economic cooperation. At the present time these negotiations have not commenced, and it is not possible at this point to say what particular items will become part of a future agreement. As suggested by the Leader of the Opposition, access to Canadian raw materials is of interest to the Community and that question will be considered. So far as the trade aspect of the discussions is concerned, manufacturing will be very much on the list.

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INDUSTRY

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGY
FOR SECONDARY INDUSTRY

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I have a final supplementary question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Inasmuch as industrial technology will be made available under the common market connecting link, assuming that it is successful, is the minister planning to develop an industrial strategy for a secondary industrial base in Canada, or is his position that of his predecessor, that Canadian businessmen should go outside Canada to the third world countries, become involved in joint ventures and export back to Canada, which will do little to aid employment in Canada?