

SECRETARY OF STATE—GRANTS IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Question No. 725—**Mr. Howie:**

In the fiscal year ended March 31, 1978, did the Secretary of State grant any money under programmes or projects, to persons or organizations in New Brunswick and, if so (a) in what amount (b) was the opportunity to apply for such grants advertised in the New Brunswick media?

Return tabled.

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[English]

POINT OF ORDER

MR. MCKINNON—DELAY IN ANSWERING QUESTION NO. 649

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I should like to enter one of the usual objections at this time. I placed a simple question on the order paper on November 27, 1978, question No. 649. It is almost a one-liner. It reads as follows:

Which department is responsible for granting end user certificates on Canadian arms exports?

It is completely beyond my comprehension that the government does not know what department does this task. If the government does not know, perhaps it could answer the question by saying that they are incapable of answering the question; that the question should not have been put; or they could answer the question by telling me which department it is. Procrastinating for some four or five months on a question as simple as that one indicates a total lack of attention to the job by either the parliamentary secretary or the department.

[Translation]

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the only logical explanation is that all questions are treated the same way and that so many questions require some research that it is often impossible to reply to questions which may be simpler than others, and we do so as soon as we receive the answers. I can assure the hon. member that his question will be treated very seriously, but that he can expect certain very normal delays on occasion because, as I have said, there are a lot of questions to answer.

[English]

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I rise on the basis of the remarks made by the parliamentary secretary in response to the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon). His remarks have to be in the category of simply being termed laughable. The fact of the matter is that we only have 80 days left. That is the maximum amount of time the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has, unless he wants to break all tradition and precedents in calling the election. He will probably wait as long as he can.

● (1220)

Even on that assumption, on the basis of the performance of the parliamentary secretary regarding questions he has now answered, today amounting to the magnificent total of five or

Petroleum Administration Act

six, with the hundreds and hundreds of questions of a simple nature that are still on the order paper today, they will never be answered. As the hon. member for Victoria has pointed out, many of these questions are straightforward, unassuming and simple enough for the parliamentary secretary to get his mind around. If he continues to proceed in this particular way the people of Canada will have a deep suspicion about the intention of this government to answer legitimate questions, the answers to which the people of Canada have a right to know.

[Translation]

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, this unexpected attack is surprising because the hon. member is repeating exactly what he said yesterday. I will simply say that as of March 14, 1979, 538 questions out of a total of 1,318 had been answered for an excellent average of 40.9 per cent, which is quite normal at this stage of a session.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

WAYS AND MEANS

PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION ACT

The House proceeded to the consideration of a ways and means motion to amend the Petroleum Administration Act.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and Minister of State for Science and Technology) moved:

That it is expedient to amend the Petroleum Administration Act to provide that, effective April 1, 1979, the maximum amount of the charge to be imposed, levied and collected on each barrel of oil exported from Canada, in any month be in such amount, not exceeding \$15.00, as may be prescribed in a tariff of charges for that month made by order of the Governor in Council.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION ACT

AMENDMENT RESPECTING INCREASE IN EXPORT CHARGE

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and Minister of State for Science and Technology) moved that Bill C-48, to amend the Petroleum Administration Act, be read the first time and printed.