

Inquiries of the Ministry

OIL

EXPRESSION OF CANADIAN VIEWS TO
U.S. CABINET COMMITTEE

not to emulate the mighty Casey, and take that third strike. I will try not to do this.

With respect to the hon. member's question, there is continuing negotiation by the International Joint Commission at the International Joint Commission level in respect of pollution emanating from either side of the border. Whether or not my own department at the present time is taking special steps in view of the situation in regard to Lake Erie I am unable to say, but I will take note of the question. Certainly we hope to have the new water act before parliament this session, and I think this will take a very considerable step in the direction of controlling pollution, water pollution in particular, and may give us new tools with which to deal with this matter internationally as well as domestically.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that Mr. J. Bruce of the minister's department, speaking in the United States, said that the situation is so serious that it warrants a crash program to deal with it, does the government intend to introduce some crash program in the immediate future or does it intend to wait until the International Joint Commission has dealt further with this matter?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any crash program, so-called, at the international level at the present time, but certainly I do think the new water act will indicate a very positive and strong approach to the question of pollution. I quite concur that the problem is extremely grave and serious, inasmuch as it affects future generations as well as our own. Certainly the government will take every possible step to see to it that the problem is met; and at the international level we will continue the most forceful negotiations possible, I am sure, under the aegis of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, as well as having meetings with the United States cabinet, which I understand will take place a little later this year, at which the international aspects of pollution will be discussed.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can we assume from the minister's presence in the house today that he has now resumed his departmental duties?

Mr. Greene: To the best of my ability, yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct this question to the Prime Minister in view of the fact that he recently had talks with the President of the United States on the subject of petroleum. The President of the United States set up a cabinet task force on March 26, 1969 to conduct a comprehensive review of the mandatory oil import program, and the task force was headed by George P. Schultz and composed of Rogers, Hickie et al. Would the Prime Minister assure us today that Canada's views on oil exports will be made known to this special U.S. cabinet committee, that we will be formally represented at the hearings to be held and will present a formal submission at that time?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I would not go so far as to talk about formal representations; but as to submissions, informal and otherwise, there have already been exchanges of views between officials of both governments and there will be continuing meetings of officials, to be followed up late in June, as the minister has said, by meetings at the ministerial level to discuss important problems, including this one.

Mr. Woolliams: Would the Prime Minister assure us that Canada's views will be made known to the people who are on this special cabinet committee, whose membership includes some of the most important ministers of the United States?

Mr. Trudeau: The opposition usually scoffs when we set up task forces; I do not know why the hon. member should attach such significance to a task force in the United States when we can make our representations in other ways.

Mr. Woolliams: I do not wish to get into an argument with the Prime Minister, but I have never scoffed at anything which leads to action.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON CUTBACKS
AND TRADE LOSS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): In view of the fact that oil cutbacks now amount to \$60,000 a day, will the Prime Minister make a statement soon, taking industry, the house and the country into his