

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister indicate whether agreement was obtained from the Red Cross according to a plan negotiated with the Biafrans in mid-August of this year?

Mr. Sharp: The only agreement that was reached by the Red Cross was a signed agreement with Nigeria.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Which one?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Lotbinière have a supplementary question?

Mr. Fortin: No, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

OIL**INQUIRY AS TO CONTINENTAL POLICY**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I was going to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, but since he is absent I will put it to the Prime Minister. It relates to the government's policy for the petroleum industry. I see the minister has promised to set up an advisory committee to the government to be drawn from the Canadian Petroleum Association. Is the Canadian government now suggesting and advocating a continental oil policy and has the United States indicated that they too favour such a policy at this time?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The department will be answering questions tomorrow and on Friday with regard to this matter.

Mr. Woolliams: May I put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister? This is his government. I am asking whether this is the policy of his government, and has there been any discussion with the United States with regard to a continental oil policy? Surely, that is a simple question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the pledge of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to draw the oil industry into government policy-making in a forceful and visible manner, can the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs indicate whether he

[*Mr. Sharp.*]

has any intention of ensuring that the consumers' interest is also represented?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The consumers' interest is always represented in this government.

An hon. Member: I think the word is "misrepresented".

Mr. Saltzman: We know that the government has been making statements to this effect, but we want more specific evidence of it—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Saltzman: May I rephrase my question, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member kindly resume his seat? The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Calgary North on a supplementary question.

Mr. Woolliams: May I put this question to the Prime Minister? Can he assure us that the discussions between Canada and the United States regarding a continental oil policy are not connected directly or indirectly with the question of water export from Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker, I know of no such connection.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is there any effort on the part of the government or is it a matter of government policy to create a relationship between the export of natural gas from Canada on the one hand and the raising of the upper limit on imports of Canadian oil by the United States?

Mr. Trudeau: I cannot answer this question, Mr. Speaker. I think the minister may be able to do so when he is in the House.

Mr. Saltzman: I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the reports that the price of natural gas will increase sharply, is it the minister's intention to intervene in this area to ensure that the cost of natural gas does not increase as a result of the demand in the United States?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, since the hon. member asked a similar question, I believe, in the last session there has been consultation