

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, October 21, 1971

The House met at 2 p.m.

[English]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

CLEAN AIR ACT

TABLING OF PRESS RELEASE OUTLINING PROPOSED AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2) I wish to table a press release outlining the proposed national air quality objectives for which provision is made in the Clean Air Act.

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I want to repeat what I said on an earlier occasion. This press release may well contain information which ought first to have been given to the House in a statement on motions. I want to enter a covert that press releases are not the subject of filing under this particular order of business.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member has raised this point before. I must say I cannot remember clearly what the disposition of the matter was. I thought at the time that the point was worth considering very seriously. It is difficult to interpret the exact wording of the Standing Order, which appears to be very wide. One might wonder whether the papers referred to in the Standing Order include a press release. The Chair will look into the matter further in view of the fact the hon. member has raised it by way of a point of order.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

TABLING OF COMMUNIQUÉ ANNOUNCING APPOINTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT BOARD MEMBERS

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), I want to file copies in both official languages of a release announcing the designation of Employment Support Board members. Information booklets on Board regulations will be distributed to hon. members this afternoon.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT ASSESSMENTS PORTRAYED TO PREMIER KOSYGIN REGARDING SOVIET ACTIONS UNDER BREZHNEV DOCTRINE, MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND CHINA-RUSSIA BORDER DISPUTE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of the statement by Premier Kosygin at the conclusion of his talks here that "between the Soviet Union and Canada there exists a considerable degree of mutual understanding in the assessment of the situation in the parts of the world where peace is violated," may I ask the Prime Minister to indicate what Canadian government assessment was portrayed to Premier Kosygin in relation to military actions or interventions which have been considered appropriate by the U.S.S.R. under what is commonly referred to as the Brezhnev doctrine?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The Leader of the Opposition is really asking me to restate in answer to a question the totality of Canada's foreign policy. We have made various statements at various times to the House of Commons and in our white papers on what we thought about the Middle East, Viet Nam, the situation in Pakistan, Berlin and so on, and these are matters that we repeated to Premier Kosygin. I will willingly answer more detailed questions if they are asked, but surely I cannot be expected to recite here the totality of Canadian foreign policy.

• (2:10 p.m.)

Mr. Stanfield: With all respect to the Prime Minister, I asked a specific question in relation to a specific doctrine relating to a specific part of Europe. I should like to ask the Prime Minister another quite specific question. In view of Premier Kosygin's remark, and also in view of his statement on October 19 about "the struggle of the peoples of the Arab countries for the liberation of Arab territories occupied by Israel", can the Prime Minister indicate what assessment the Canadian government portrayed to Premier Kosygin in regard to this matter, and would the Prime Minister briefly indicate what is the area of mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and Canada in the assessment of the Middle East situation?

Mr. Trudeau: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, we both agreed that United Nations resolution 242 should have our wholehearted support.