

the government. Also, my officials went outside government areas to make very sure the advice we received was complete in this regard.

**Mrs. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, as a Member of Parliament and the representative of the people of Vancouver-Kingsway I believe I have the right to ask the government to end the conspiracy of silence which is now surrounding the pollution of our waterways by phosphate detergents. Powerful economic interests are trying to delay or prevent action to ban phosphate detergents.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I doubt whether this is a question of privilege. It seems to me that the hon. member is engaging in debate. Perhaps the hon. member might ask a supplementary question.

**Mrs. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, may I say with great respect that I do not do this often. I think this is the first time I have raised a question of privilege, and I really would like Your Honour to hear me further because it is very important. The fact is that powerful interests are trying to delay and prevent action to ban phosphate detergents, using the argument that no proper substitute is available. Previously, I asked whether this matter had been referred to the National Research Council, and now I ask whether it is being referred to the Science Council of Canada, even though I know that the chairman of the Science Council is also the vice chairman of the company that makes the phosphates and thus has a monopoly over detergent manufacture in Canada.

I would like an answer to my question from the Prime Minister himself. Last time he put it off on the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and this time he did not even have to do that. I would like to have an answer from him.

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, in reply to the brief supplementary question of the hon. member I might point out to her, that, to the best of my knowledge, Canada is the first country in the world to announce that we are going to ban phosphates. I think that is pretty good action.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Greene:** I might point out that even in a socialist haven such as Sweden they have not banned phosphates.

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*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova):** I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Can the minister tell us once and for all which government, federal or provincial, will introduce legislation or whatever action is necessary to ban phosphates?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps because of the length of the question asked by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway, the real point was lost. Has Dr. Solandt, who is an official of the Canadian government, been asked for his opinion on the question of phosphate detergents and phosphate pollution, since it is precisely this official of the Canadian government who is also vice-president of the Electric Reduction Company, the sole producer of phosphate?

**Mr. Fairweather:** Don't embarrass them.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** The Science Council would normally come under my jurisdiction, and I have no knowledge of such a request having been made to them. I take it that the minister himself does not seem to know of any such request having been made. I am a little bewildered as to what the opposition really want. If we ask the Science Council, they would say that the president is prejudiced; if we do not ask the Science Council for advice they would say we should.

**Mr. Comeau:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. May I ask why my question was not allowed? There is confusion as to which government, federal or provincial, is to take action on this matter. I should like the minister to clarify the situation.

**Mr. Greene:** I announced in queer, unequivocal—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**An hon. Member:** It's catching.

**Mr. Greene:** For the benefit of hon. members, I should announce it in simple terms that we are going to ban phosphates.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think we should go on to another subject.