

*Oral Questions*

An elaborate joint oil spill contingency plan has been developed.

My question is this: has that plan been developed or not, or is it still being discussed?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, a plan has been developed and it is still being discussed.

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

**Mr. Sharp:** My answer to both questions is yes.

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**ENERGY****PLANS TO ASSIST OIL FIRED THERMAL POWER PLANTS TO CHANGE TO COAL**

**Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has his department any contingency plans to assist thermal powered generating stations to change to the use of coal, or to make some other adjustment, so that areas of the country that are completely dependent on oil fired thermal power plants will not suffer unduly because of the increasing cost of crude oil?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I would assume that the hon. member is more concerned in this particular context with the Atlantic provinces.

**Mr. MacLean:** Yes.

**Mr. Jamieson:** We have been discussing with the three maritime provinces the whole question of energy supply and expansion, but not necessarily up to now in terms of conversion. The question has been primarily one of nuclear powered plants as being supplementary to those now in existence.

● (1440)

**OIL—ACHIEVEMENT OF AGREEMENT WITH ALBERTA GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY—SUGGESTION AS TO POSITION MINISTER SHOULD TAKE**

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Since the minister has now struck out for the second time with the province of Alberta on energy matters, the latest being his reply to a question by the hon. member for Calgary North on October 18 concerning exemption of Syncrude, Canada, Ltd., from the export tax, which has been refuted by Mr. Spragin—

**Some hon. Members:** Order!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might like to ask a question rather than submit an argument. A question should not be argumentative.

**Mr. Towers:** Will the minister now go hat in hand to the province of Alberta on October 29 to initiate an agreement between that province and the oil industry and the federal government which will be of benefit to all Canadians?

[Mr. Fraser.]

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I would remind the hon. gentleman that I was not speaking to Mr. Spragin; I was speaking to his principals, and I still think that my comment stands.

**Mr. Towers:** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the Prime Minister. If the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources strikes out the third time at the meeting with Alberta on October 29, will the Prime Minister assure this House that the minister will be out?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member's supplementary is hypothetical.

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**VETERANS AFFAIRS****REQUEST THAT PAY AWARD TO NURSES BE REVIEWED**

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question relates to nurses in the employ of the federal government most of whom work in and for the Department of Veterans Affairs, but I should like to put my question to the President of the Privy Council in his capacity as minister responsible for the Public Service Staff Relations Board. In view of the fact that the nurses concerned, many of whom are not reporting for work these days, feel that the arbitral award in their case was unfair in that it did not take all the factors into consideration, will the minister take up with the Public Service Staff Relations Board the possibility of having that award reviewed?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will have a word with the chairman of the board and discuss the point made by my hon. friend.

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the apparent discontent of many nurses in veterans affairs hospitals, which is going to interfere with the care of war veterans, has the minister made his colleagues in cabinet aware of the situation, has he had consultations and has he made representations to ensure swift settlement of the issues before many of our veterans are ignored?

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to inform the hon. member that I have spoken to one member of cabinet, the President of the Treasury Board. I would also like to assure the House that our veterans are well cared for. A segment of the nursing staff is off for three days registering their objection but I am informed that the veterans are still being well looked after.

**Mr. Marshall:** In view of the fact that the Assistant Deputy Minister of Hospitals has resigned, is the minister making an immediate appointment so that the mechanics of the treatment of veterans will continue uninterrupted?

**Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan):** Mr. Speaker, the doctor in charge of transfer hospitals has not resigned; he has