

Oral Questions

ship into ocean waters several times during loading and turn it around in order to keep the cargo balanced, and as this ship must drop anchor 65 miles from the port of destination because of shallow waters, it is obvious somebody boobed. Can the minister advise the House who is responsible?

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): You can't go on the trip, Eugene.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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AGRICULTURE**POTATOES—POSSIBILITY OF CO-OPERATION OF PROVINCES IN PRODUCTION AND MARKETING**

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the appreciated help accorded to the potato producers of eastern Canada, as announced last week, I wonder if the minister has now obtained some assurance or indication from eastern producing provinces that they are now more willing than ever to co-operate and bring some order to the production and marketing of potatoes.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, it is my feeling that they are, but reorganizing their selling policies, and so on, is easier said than done. We met with some of the people concerned with the industry this morning and we are to meet with other government officials later today and tomorrow.

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NATIONAL SECURITY**POSSIBILITY COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH OF NRC MONITORING LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALLS**

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question, which is directed either to the Minister of Communications or to the Minister of State for Science and Technology, concerns an answer given by the Prime Minister last March 26 to a question I had asked, and also the statement in committee made by the Minister of State for Science and Technology, to the effect that the communications branch of NRC, as it was then, "do monitor Hertzian wave emanations." Since that phrase could include microwave emanations, including long distance telephone calls, will the minister, or whichever minister can answer, tell the House whether that agency was or is monitoring long distance telephone calls placed in Canada to points in Canada or elsewhere.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, I think that my statement that Hertzian waves were alone being monitored covers the case of most telephone calls and excludes them by definition.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. I think I will have to tap that answer to understand it. I should like to know from the

[Mr. Towers.]

minister whether it has been the practice of the communications branch of NRC, and now of DND, to monitor in any way whatsoever long distance telephone calls placed in Canada to points in Canada or abroad. A simple yes or no would be fine, and I would prefer not to have both.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I would make that, on choice, a simple no.

REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS ANSWER BY PRIME MINISTER ON MONITORING LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALLS

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

An hon. Member: Wait until after the question period.

Mr. Nielsen: May I ask a supplementary question, in that case, and direct it to the Prime Minister. In view of the answer given just now by his colleague, is he now prepared to expand on his answer given to me in the last parliament—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: How long have you been here?

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I have been asking similar questions in several of the nine parliaments in which I have served. I have asked precisely the sort of question put by my hon. friend from Rocky Mountain. As the Prime Minister answered, when I asked my question, that it was not in the national interest to answer such a question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nielsen: —is the Prime Minister prepared now to answer the question more fully and more accurately than he did last year.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would have to look up the record, for the exact question. According to my recollection, it was not in as precise a form as the question asked by the hon. member for Rocky Mountain. He asked a precise question about calls within Canada.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): No. You were not listening.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**PRICE OF OIL USED BY MINISTER IN FORECASTING GROWTH IN 1975**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance, who seems to be most forthcoming today. When he prepared his forecast of growth for 1975 in November, he must have foreseen the termination of the one-price agreement on oil applying across Canada. I want to ask him what new price he used in November, which would be