

## METRIC CONVERSION

### WARNING OF BUSINESS PROSECUTIONS

**Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth):** Madam Speaker, my question had been intended for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Perhaps I could direct it instead to the Minister responsible for small business.

The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has broken his word to the House of Commons and to retailers in Canada. He gave assurances to this Parliament back in January, 1981, that he would not prosecute those businesses who still choose to deal in imperial measurement, perhaps along with metric measurement. Will the Minister call off his colleague and stop force marching Canadians into metric and into the courts?

**Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, the retail gasoline industry met with the Minister on a number of occasions, and had a committee, as the Hon. Member is aware, which oversaw the transformation from the imperial system to the metric system. That committee stood down earlier this year because conversion had taken place in about 99 per cent of the cases. It is possibly damaging to certain competitors of those who seek to infringe the law, and therefore the Minister has taken steps to apply the law.

**Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth):** Surely, Madam Speaker, even the Parliamentary Secretary is not naive enough to believe that there are not many upset Canadians who are being forced to deal in metric, not only in the gasoline retail trade but in many other sectors of metric conversion.

### METRIC COMMISSION BROCHURE

**Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth):** Madam Speaker, the Parliamentary Secretary will know that the Metric Commission is sending out a five-colour brochure, reported to have cost more than \$100,000, with every family allowance and pension cheque, wherein it is stated that metric conversion is voluntary in Canada and that we in this country must go metric because the United States is going metric. Both statements are untrue.

Will the Parliamentary Secretary bring to the attention of the Minister that his own Department should stop this Metric Commission from publishing false and misleading advertising?

**Mr. David Berger (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I do not know where the Hon. Member gets the impression that metric conversion is voluntary in certain sectors; it is part of the Weights and Measures Act and the Minister has a responsibility to apply that law. Further, Madam Speaker, given the fact that all young people in this country these days are educated in the Metric system I have a great deal of difficulty understanding—

**Mr. Epp:** Anything.

## Oral Questions

**Mr. Berger:** —the lobby being raised by the dinosaurs across the way.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### PAKISTAN—DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR POLICY

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

**Some Hon. Members:** Leader! Leader!

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Madam Speaker, apparently they want a new leader over there.

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister is meeting with the President of Pakistan this week and, as the Prime Minister knows, there is a great deal of fear that Pakistan is a country determined to develop a nuclear weapon. Will the Prime Minister tell the House what he hopes to accomplish in his meetings with the President of Pakistan, and is he going to urge him to sign full scope safeguards and sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty? If the President of Pakistan does not agree to do that, are we going to continue our policy of refusing to deliver nuclear fuel or any other nuclear implements to Pakistan?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Well, Madam Speaker, without going into the details of what has happened over the past years, I can assure the Hon. Member that in our past negotiations with Pakistan we stood pretty firm in ensuring that they would not become a nuclear state with Canada's assistance. That remains our position. Of course we will discuss that subject with him again, and it would be our desire that Pakistan and many other countries sign the non-proliferation treaty.

The Hon. Member asks what other subjects will be discussed. There will be many, but I am sure as a front-line state Pakistan will be willing to discuss with us the problems arising from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, a matter which I understand has caused concern even in the mind of the Hon. Member, preoccupied as he is with the leadership question.

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister seems to have leadership much on his mind. Methinks the throne is not as secure as it might appear, Madam Speaker.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** He just has to look behind him.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Safeguards are needed by the Prime Minister.