

[Translation]

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Since the minister has stated that he would initiate discussions with some detergent manufacturers in the United States, could he not also consult them about marketing at this time entirely biodegradable products, which are the only ones allowed in some American states?

[English]

Mr. Greene: Again, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian product is already biodegradable. I do not intend to have further consultations with the manufacturers as I think I did everything I could usefully have done in this regard. As indicated, I think governmental action is required, not a voluntary method of discipline.

[Later:]

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources on the matter of biodegradable detergents. Can the minister explain whether biodegradability applies only to non-phosphate components of detergents or also to phosphate components? I think this is an important question arising out of one asked earlier.

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure of the technical connotation of the question. It is my understanding that biodegradability was achieved by a voluntary process in which the companies co-operated some time ago. It was because of successes in that regard that I was encouraged to think that possibly we could achieve similar successes in the entire field of phosphates. The companies have taken the view that, (a) there is no substitute at the present and, (b) that the answer is to build or develop sewage disposal plants to clear up the phosphates rather than prevent their use, inasmuch as phosphates themselves are not harmful. They merely enable algae to live and grow. The companies feel that cleaning up after the use of phosphates would be the answer. I deemed, therefore, that I could not obtain the kind of co-operation with respect to phosphate control which had been obtained on the issue of biodegradability.

TRADE

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON SALE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question

Inquiries of the Ministry

to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Based on the apparent success of his department in obtaining a larger part of the Japanese market for food on a commodity to commodity basis, would he now consider placing special emphasis on the sale of dairy products to alleviate the very serious problem here in Canada?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I will consider that, Mr. Speaker, in regard to Japan or any other areas. We try hard in all areas.

An hon. Member: Do your very best.

POWER

MINAS BASIN—PUBLICATION OF STUDY

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Further to his indication to me a couple of weeks ago, could he now give some indication when the government might be receiving or be in a position to release the feasibility study on Minas Basin tidal power?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I understand the problem now is a question of printing. It is at that stage, in which case I think we should have it available very soon.

Mr. Forrestall: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate if he or his department has made any decision on whether this report will be released?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, the report was made in conjunction with the provinces and that decision will have to be the subject of negotiation. Such decision at the negotiation table has not yet been made.

TRANSPORT

DEFENCE OF CTC RAILWAY COSTING FORMULA

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. The importance of this matter relates to the pending applications for rail line abandonments and more specifically as they affect western Canada. Can the minister advise the House what steps, if any, he has taken to defend the Canadian Transport Commission's costing formula before the Supreme Court of Canada?

Mr. Speaker: I wonder whether the question asked is in order. The hon. member is