

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

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### PUBLIC SERVICE

DISPUTE INVOLVING VETERINARIANS IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South):** Madam Speaker, I rise to move a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43. This morning most of the veterinarians employed by the health of animals branch inspecting slaughter houses and abattoirs serving Ontario and Quebec decided, for some reason, to be sick. A number of poultry and meat processing plants are unable to operate.

Because of the ineptness of the Treasury Board in organizing a proper contract with inspection staff, our food supply is now endangered. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Brampton-Georgetown (Mr. McDermid).

That the President of the Treasury Board who has shown incompetence in handling labour relations with air traffic controllers, postal workers and now with veterinarians, immediately submit his resignation, and that this House direct the Prime Minister to appoint someone competent to handle this portfolio so that Canadians can depend on essential services.

**Madam Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

• (1415)

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

#### NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY UNITED STATES AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker—

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

**Mr. Clark:** After a while you get used to all of this.

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

**Mr. Clark:** My question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and has to do with energy matters. He will have seen reports that the United States and perhaps member nations of OECD have expressed concern that the federal government's energy policy might breach certain international agreements. The minister will recall that on December 18, in a correction to an answer he had given me to a question, he said

### Oral Questions

that American representations were "in the nature of comments and requests for clarification, and that successful discussions have since taken place with U.S. officials which reassured them." Does that statement stand that U.S. officials have been reassured, or have there been new developments to cause that statement to stand no longer? Can the minister tell us whether foreign representations regarding our energy policy were received as early as November 7, 1980?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I think it is fair to say that U.S. reaction to our energy program has sharpened in recent weeks, perhaps as a result of U.S. domestic pressures, perhaps as a result of the forthcoming visit of the President. In any event, we have received notice from the United States and indications from the European community of concern about some aspects of our National Energy Program. I should say that with respect to the two principal international instruments in question, on the Declaration of International Investment of the OECD, the Minister of Finance specifically entered a reservation in 1976, or rather an interpretation since it was a non-binding declaration, in which he said at that time that we would not be constrained with respect to the problem of foreign ownership in Canada by this declaration, and with respect to the GATT, the other instrument under which our action could be challenged, we said that we will not use the "buy Canadian" provisions in Bill C-48 in such a way as to contravene our obligations under the GATT.

**Mr. Clark:** I thank the Secretary of State for External Affairs for that information which indicates that American concerns at least have sharpened since that day in December when the minister thought the Americans had been reassured. The minister made reference to European nations, and to various of the other international obligations to which Canada is subject. Can the minister tell us specifically which other countries, whether in Europe or elsewhere, have made representations to Canada suggesting that our National Energy Program is in breach of the GATT, the International Energy Agency requirements, OECD requirements, or in breach of any other treaty or obligation to which Canada should be held? Can he tell us which other countries have indicated that kind of concern?

**Mr. MacGuigan:** To the best of my recollection, the questions have been asked by the United States and the European community speaking as a whole.

### REQUEST FOR TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, the minister indicated that was to the best of his recollection. We would naturally like him to verify his recollection and make clear to us what objections have been received. I again emphasize that we are not concerned simply about IEA or OECD, but any obligations which Canada might have under any bilateral or multilateral treaty or undertaking which might be breached by this policy.