

Oral Questions

● (1420)

[Translation]

AIRPORTS

STE.-SCHOLASTIQUE—REOPENING OF EXPROPRIATION FILES—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I rise under the terms of Standing Order 43, to ask the unanimous consent of the House to discuss a most pressing matter.

In view of the huge difference in the way the expropriated were treated at Ste.-Scholastique compared with those at Pickering, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte):

That a special committee of the House be formed to reopen and study all the files on all expropriated at Ste.-Scholastique in order that they might be treated exactly as those at Pickering were, taking into account the true respective evaluations.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion of the hon. member. Under Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: As there is not unanimous consent, the motion cannot be put.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION TO DEAL WITH ALLEGED PRICE GOUGING BY SUPERMARKETS—BREAD PRICE MONITORING

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In light of his statement to the House in July that in the event of evidence there was any gouging in connection with food pricing the government would take action, by legislation if necessary, and in view of the evidence given by the Minister of Agriculture and charges of gouging by supermarkets, is it the intention of the government to introduce legislation to enable itself to deal with this alleged situation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the position of the government is still the same. Having regard to the action being attempted by the Food Prices Review Board, the publicizing of whatever findings they have and the summoning of responsible people before them, if in all these circumstances it appears that corrective action is not taken the government will seek parliamentary authority to act.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Stanfield: I take it from the Prime Minister's answer the government does not place much weight on the evidence of the minister. Has the government set up any machinery to monitor bread prices at this time in order to ensure that the increased subsidy and the various arrangements made by the government with regard to domestic wheat will keep bread prices down, as promised by the Prime Minister at the time of his earlier statement?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker. If the hon. gentleman recollects the terms of my statement, it was to the effect we would ask the Food Prices Review Board to follow the various subsidies we are making to ensure that they are passed on to the consumer, and to report to the government if they are not. I believe they are engaged in this task at the present time.

MONITORING OF SALES TAX AND TARIFF CUTS TO ENSURE BENEFITS REACH CONSUMERS—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): In view of the importance of monitoring and the experience we have had with assurances by the government about monitoring, I wish to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether, after six months or more, we can now have the report of his department or group with regard to the monitoring of results of the budget changes and the passing on of those changes to the consumers? Can the minister assure us this report will be tabled in the House today, tomorrow or early next week?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I previously informed the House that I expected the surveys for the purpose of preparing this report to be completed about this time. It is my hope to have the work on the report completed as soon as the survey results are made available to the officials.

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ENERGY

TAR SANDS OIL—POSSIBILITY OF EXEMPTION FROM TWO-PRICE SYSTEM AND EXPORT CONTROLS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources arising out of reports of an agreement between the government of Alberta and Syncrude for the production of oil from the Athabasca tar sands. Has Premier Lougheed or Syncrude made a request to him directly, or to the government as far as he knows, that the oil produced by this process be exempted both from the two-price system and from any export controls Canada may have? If so, what has been the reply to such request?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I would have to confirm this with my office, but to my knowledge I have received no such request either from the company or from Premier Lougheed. I might say that the full details of the Syncrude project are not yet known to us. We learned about them on