

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lawrence: Seriously, Mr. Speaker, I say in full confidence that there is no dispute between the minister and the deputy minister on this issue. Believe me. Certainly as far as coating or any covering of 1.5 litre bottles is concerned, we are willing to look at any process the industry comes up with. To my knowledge, there are at least three Japanese processes and at least one Canadian process. There are other means of containing the shattering of the glass when a large, awkward bottle such as that slips, falls and breaks. We are willing to look at any reasonable proposition the industry may come up with.

Mr. McCauley: Mr. Speaker, I believe the industry has come up with a solution—a two-bottle package which was submitted for testing and found to be satisfactory. Can the minister confirm that this is so, and advise what action he proposes to take concerning this? Also, what are the details of the two-bottle proposal?

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, I can confirm to the hon. member that the question of putting two 1.5 litre bottles in a single cardboard container is no answer to the problem, as far as the minister is concerned. Those bottles would still have to be taken out of the carton to be cooled. They would still have to be taken out to be poured. That type of solution smacks more of a merchandising gimmick than an answer to safety problems.

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[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS

OFFER OF \$10 MILLION TO UNIONS FOR LABOUR EDUCATION— USE OF FUNDS

Mr. Jacques Olivier (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. As both the minister and the House know, a \$10 million program has been offered to trade unions for labour education. Can the minister tell us whether he has received a report on the use of those funds and if so does the report explicitly indicate that the funds were used for labour education?

● (1500)

[English]

Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander (Minister of Labour): I heard part of that question only, Mr. Speaker. I heard “employment and immigration” and I heard the hon. member mention the utilization of funds.

The hon. member asks, “Why don’t you listen?” Well, it was difficult to hear because of the—

An hon. Member: Noise on the other side.

Oral Questions

Mr. Alexander:—mechanism. Not having the answer, I will look into the hon. member’s question and give him a reply as soon as possible.

[Translation]

Mr. Olivier: Mr. Speaker, the minister will only have to read my first question. My supplementary question deals with the same subject and is addressed to the Solicitor General. Can he confirm to the House that RCMP agents are now investigating the use of funds set aside for labour education, namely, the \$10 million which has been the subject of an agreement among unions. Is the Solicitor General aware that several RCMP agents are carrying out an investigation regarding these funds? If it is not true, I would like him to deny it before the House.

[English]

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Solicitor General and Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): The Solicitor General is not aware of that, no.

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PETRO-CANADA

ABILITY OF CORPORATION TO ALONE CARRY OUT ALSANDS PROJECT—REMARKS OF PRESIDENT

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. At a committee meeting this morning, the president of Petro-Canada demonstrated in an unequivocal way the great success Petro-Canada has had in carrying out its mandate.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Hopper confirmed in his testimony this morning not only that the company is capable of carrying out on its own the Alsands project, but he also indicated that if oil were brought in by his company at cost instead of cost plus guaranteed profits as demanded by Shell, the people of Canada could save hundreds of millions of dollars. I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister whether the government has any reason at all to doubt those claims by Mr. Hopper.

Hon. Walter Baker (President of the Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue): I am sure Mr. Hopper was explaining things as he saw them, but if I understand the gist of the hon. member’s question, he is still on his crusade for Petro-Canada, something he is entitled to do. I should inform him that the government has the whole question of Petro-Canada under review. When that review is completed, an appropriate announcement will be made in the House of Commons. Naturally, in the course of this review we shall take into account opinions expressed by people like Mr. Hopper.

Mr. Broadbent: I am not now dealing with the survival of Petro-Canada as such; I am asking a question about the government’s policy for the development of the tar sands