

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

recently on the matter. The implications of these discoveries are very much the concern of the two governments. I hope when the Prime Minister meets the President, as well as on other occasions, these matters will be discussed between the two governments.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question on this matter, that is important to our nation. Is the Canadian government prepared to consider discussing a continental oil policy? When the Prime Minister meets with President Nixon will he consider discussing a new approach to the oil industry? I ask this question because the minister seemed unaware of the extensive nature of the recent oil discoveries.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure all aspects of oil policy will be discussed between the governments in the near future.

**Mr. Woolliams:** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the Alberta government made the suggestion to the appropriate minister in the Canadian government that a continental oil policy should be the heart of negotiations with the United States in maintaining and accelerating our exports, particularly at a time when there is serious danger of a deterioration in our oil market comparable to the deterioration of our wheat market?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, that was quite a speech.

**An hon. Member:** And a good one.

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

**Mr. Sharp:** No such representations have been made to me, as Secretary of State for External Affairs. I think that question ought to be directed to the appropriate minister when he is in the house, tomorrow.

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the severe limitation that has been imposed on all oil exports to the United States, will the government re-examine our oil policy and consider the possibility of building a pipe line to Montreal, as an alternative to a continental oil policy?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I think that sort of question ought to be reserved for the minister who reports to parliament on these matters.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for St. John's East.

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, my question cannot be asked because of the absence of the Minister of

Transport and the Minister of Fisheries. I do not say that in any flippant or irresponsible manner. My question was one of urgency on Friday; obviously it is not considered urgent today.

**NATIONAL DEFENCE**NATO—IMPLICATIONS OF CALGARY  
COMMENTS

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister. Did his recent comments in Calgary on the subject of NATO reflect government opinion, or was he expressing his personal viewpoint?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I shall be happy to send a copy of my speech to the hon. gentleman. He will find a clear explanation of the circumstances under which I made it.

**Mr. Woolliams:** You are backing down.

**EXTERNAL AID**DISTURBANCES AT CANADIAN-PAKISTANI  
NUCLEAR PROJECT

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the light of reports of unrest in Pakistan in connection with projects for which Canada is providing external aid, for reasons that also prompt us to give aid to India, will the minister kindly advise the house whether these projects are in jeopardy and whether Canadians involved in the Pakistani project are safe? Can he also say whether there will be any further trouble with these projects.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as a result of disturbances at the site of the joint Canadian and Pakistani nuclear power project near Karachi, which are a reflection of the general pattern of unrest throughout east and west Pakistan at the present time, construction on the project has been temporarily suspended. Officials from Canadian General Electric are going to Pakistan to investigate the situation and to discuss with Pakistani officials the arrangements under which construction may be resumed.

The injuries that were reported to Mr. Pulen were not serious. The Canadian High Commission has now secured from Pakistani authorities concerned round-the-clock protection for Canadians at the site.