

## Oral Questions

## IMMIGRATION

HAITIANS—ALLEGED INVITATION TO SEND CANADIAN  
SURVEILLANCE COMMISSION TO HAITI

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Since some ten days ago, Mr. Lavigne of Montreal returned from Haiti and confirmed that the president of that country had invited the Canadian government to send a supervisory commission if the Haitians were deported to their country, is the minister in a position to tell us whether he has received such an invitation from the Haitian president and if so, what is the decision taken by the minister in that connection?

[English]

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** No, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

**Mr. La Salle:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question. Is the minister willing to make a statement soon, so that we may know what has happened about the final decision of the Canadian government concerning the Haitians who are about to be deported.

[English]

**Mr. Andras:** Mr. Speaker, I have made many statements on this subject. The situation has not changed.

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## AGRICULTURE

ALLEGED UNAUTHORIZED PAYMENTS TO PRAIRIE FARM  
ASSISTANCE FIELD MEN—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Agriculture. I ask it with the knowledge of the quick action of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in responding to a request for an inquiry in the province of Quebec. Would the minister take personal note of the disturbing events in the administration of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act in the west? I am referring specifically to unauthorized payments for field men during the election period, information about which the hon. member for Red Deer has in his possession. In view of these disturbing developments, would the minister consider asking Mr. Howard Riddell, who was for 14 years the head of PFAA and who is now working for the Department of Municipal Affairs in Saskatchewan and who has the confidence of the farmers, and who is well known for his honesty and integrity, to come back and check out this very smelly situation?

● (1450)

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** I do not know what the situation is, but I will certainly check on it and ascertain what the facts are.

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** I believe the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Williams, is retir-

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

ing very shortly. Perhaps the minister might consider, when he is checking the situation out, that this might be a very good job for him to look after, because he, too, I think, has the confidence of the farmers out there.

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## ENERGY

## OIL—UNITED STATES POSITION ON REDUCTION OF EXPORTS

**Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. Last week, in the right hon. gentleman's discussion with President Ford during which there was general agreement there would be no trade war between the United States and Canada, was the Prime Minister able to get a specific assurance from President Ford that there would be no response on the part of the United States government to Canada's decision to reduce the rate of export of oil to that country?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Certainly, the President did not indicate there would be any strong reaction, nor did he indicate to the contrary. He was interested in the explanations, the motivation, which led us to a certain position. He seemed prepared to consider them after they had been explained to him, and that was the essential purpose of my visit, not to get any strong undertaking at that particular time but to make sure he understood Canada's good reasons for doing certain things.

SYNCRUDE PROJECT—POSSIBLE FEDERAL PURCHASE OF  
ATLANTIC RICHFIELD INTEREST

**Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has the federal government initiated any negotiations regarding the purchase of the Atlantic Richfield interest in Syncrude? Specifically, are negotiations being conducted, or have negotiations been conducted, between the federal government and Atlantic Richfield, between the federal government and the Alberta government, or between the federal government and other participants in the consortium?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I met on Friday afternoon with the Alberta ministers of the environment and of mines and minerals. At that meeting we discussed the ARCO decision with regard to the Syncrude project. I expressed the interest of the federal government in supporting the government of Alberta in financial terms in order to make sure that the Syncrude project kept going. I indicated, of course, that federal participation would be subject to the approval of the Alberta government.

At a later time I met with one of the other partners in the Syncrude project to obtain confirmation of the decision made by ARCO and to obtain information as to the situation in which the project now finds itself. I have asked my officials to keep in close contact with Syncrude officials so that we can be better informed of the facts concerning that project and be in a better position to determine what assistance the federal government could