

Oral Questions

Mr. Wilson: That really does surprise me, Madam Speaker, in view of the number of times the Prime Minister's party raised questions in the House last year, with me in particular, as to the importance that his party placed on the effect that Buy America has on particular industries, and more particularly the surface transportation industry.

Pursuant to that, did the Prime Minister ask for assurances from President Carter that new initiatives would be taken by the administration to press for early ratification by the Senate of the Canada-U.S. east coast fisheries treaty and, in particular, initiatives to counter the proposed amendments of senators Pell and Kennedy?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Madam Speaker, that was one of the subjects I discussed with President Carter, and that took some time.

Mr. Nowlan: What assurances did you get?

Mr. Wilson: I hope that in his statement on motions the Prime Minister will be somewhat more forthcoming in the event that he did not forget these important discussions on his trip to the northern part of that continent.

Did the Prime Minister discuss with the president the possibility of any joint initiatives, including import restrictions, by the U.S. and Canada designed to lessen the impact of the import of foreign cars on the severe unemployment problems being experienced by workers in the automobile industry? If so, could he today elaborate on these discussions for the House?

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, perhaps I should save the hon. member some time by indicating that I did not raise all the outstanding bilateral questions between the United States and Canada. I did discuss the fisheries problem; I did discuss the territorial sea boundaries; I did discuss the Garrison subject; and I also discussed the pre-build problem.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**ACID RAIN—DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER—
INCREASED USE OF COAL**

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Given that the United States Senate has passed a bill to convert some 80 power plants from oil to acid rain-producing coal, when the Prime Minister met with President Carter last week in Europe, among the urgent bilateral matters he discussed with the president did he urge the United States government not to proceed with the power plant conversions; or did he at least express to the president Canada's hope that these conversions would include technological provisions to guarantee that pollution will not be increased in either Canada or the United States?

• (1420)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, if the hon. member refers to the communiqué he will see that this matter was included in the multilateral agreements between the seven members of the Summit. Therefore, President Carter is perfectly aware of the requirements of Canada and other states with regard to environmental pollution crossing boundaries.

I might add, for the hon. member's information, that I did discuss this question again in the northern countries because they, too, are faced with a similar type of problem with acid rain and problems from parts of Europe south of them. We agreed to exchange further information on this subject in the hope that we might establish some international regime dealing with this kind of matter.

Mr. McMillan: Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has referred to the Venice Summit communiqué. As he knows, that particular communiqué commits Canada and the other six countries to doubling coal production and use by early 1990. How does the Prime Minister reconcile that particular goal, since he mentioned it, with Canada's goal to reduce acid rain pollution caused by that very source?

Mr. Trudeau: If the hon. member refers to the communiqué he will see that this provision on increasing the use of coal was stated along with an indication that environmental questions should be taken into account in proceeding in that direction.

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NORTHERN PIPELINES**CONSTRUCTION OF ALASKA HIGHWAY NATURAL GAS
PIPELINE—NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. About ten days ago the senator who is in charge of the northern pipeline headed a delegation to Washington on behalf of Canada to obtain, as I understand it, agreement on two important points to Canadians. The first was to obtain assurances from the United States government that they would fulfil their obligations under the agreement to build the pipeline and, second, to obtain from private sources in the United States their assurances that they would provide the necessary financing.

Would the minister, in light of the motion which was passed in the United States Senate just before the weekend, and in light of the failure to obtain guarantees for financing from private sources, confirm to the House that Senator Olson's trip was a complete disaster in terms of Canadians interests?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, not only did Senator Olson go to the United States ten days ago but he also went last Friday,