

Oral Questions

ity of the provincial agencies, like the Ontario Energy Board, which has jurisdiction over the individual distribution companies.

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INDUSTRY**FOREST PRODUCTS—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can the minister tell the House whether his department is planning any special assistance to the paper and allied industries sector, in view of their reduced volumes of shipments, their skyrocketing inventories and their reductions in employment; and if the minister is launching any assistance programs, could he advise the House what form this assistance will take and whether it will be directed to any particular regions of the country?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we have intensified our efforts in the export markets of the world, trying to find new markets for Canadian forest products. About two weeks ago I was in Japan, and made a special effort when meeting with Japanese businessmen and officials to promote the forest products of Canada. At that time I also participated at a particular meeting at Osaka which dealt with the new timber frame construction system which the Japanese have now endorsed as a result of the work of the federal government, the provincial government and the industry itself.

**PROPOSED AID IN ESTABLISHING PAPER MILL IN IRAN—
EFFECT ON CANADIAN INDUSTRY**

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the minister plans, as an aid to the Canadian industry, also to supply Canadian assistance in the construction of a pulp and paper facility in Iran, a country to which Canada exports well in excess of \$10 million a year in pulp and paper products, can the minister assure the House that studies within his department show Canadian assistance in establishing a potential competitor will not have a long-term, damaging effect on Canadian pulp and paper production, exports and employment? If his department has studied this possibility, would he table the study?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I think that, as a result of the meetings that we had with the Iranian delegation last week to the joint economic council, a set of arrangements were worked out which should produce close to \$1.3 billion in Canadian exports to Iran over the next five years. Part of that particular arrangement dealt with the pulp and paper industry. I believe that the opportunities are two way; that is to say, that there will be substantial opportunities for the export of Canadian forest products, particularly pulp and paper, to Iran, perhaps some investment in the Canadian pulp and paper industry, and assistance

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

by Canadian companies in the transfer of technology to Iranian companies.

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HARBOURS**HAMILTON—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT
POSITION ON PUBLIC INQUIRY**

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Prime Minister. It arises out of an answer given the hon. member for Hamilton West yesterday with respect to the harbour inquiry. The Prime Minister said that an announcement had already been made. In view of that statement and the statement attributed to the Minister of Labour yesterday in the *Hamilton Spectator* that he would have a statement to make soon in this respect, indicating one has not been made, does the Prime Minister now wish to make a correction to his statement? If not and in fact an announcement has been made, what was in it, to whom was it made, and when in fact was it made?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour had indicated some days before his position on this petition by the Hamilton council. I believe he indicated it to some newsman. It was the government's position then and the minister is continuing to develop that position. I believe he may have some further statement to add, but the minister did indicate what was the government's position.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Was an announcement made by the Prime Minister or by anybody else with respect to the inquiry?

Mr. Trudeau: I have just said.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Well, has an inquiry been called? If so, what are the terms of reference, when was the announcement made and to whom was it made? That is the question.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would advise the hon. member, as the Prime Minister has indicated, that we are looking into the situation and that—

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Did you read *Hansard* yesterday?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Let me finish. I then said that I would comment later on, and later on has not yet arrived. That is what the Prime Minister said.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): No, he did not.