

Oral Questions

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, my hon. friend has an interesting suggestion, but he will remember that the decision concerning the Eldorado refinery concerned a planned or projected installation, not one that existed at the time. So it was a new plant that was being planned.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FOREIGN POLICY OF UNITED STATES—STATEMENT OF MINISTER

Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I should like to know from the minister what facts drove him to the conclusion that there was inadequate leadership in the area of foreign policy in the United States. Would he list those facts, please?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, tomorrow I will be appearing before the parliamentary committee, and we will have lots of chance to explore my views and their views on the present state of Canadian-United States relations.

Mr. Speyer: Madam Speaker, that is totally inadequate. I ask the minister, please, to enumerate some of the facts, which we are entitled to hear in this House, which drove him to the conclusion that there was inadequate leadership in the United States in foreign policy areas. Please tell us.

Mr. MacGuigan: Madam Speaker, I believe my statement speaks for itself.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CANADIAN HOME INSULATION PROGRAM

NUMBER OF GRANTS MADE UNDER PROGRAM

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour who is responsible for the CHIP program. A constituent of mine received a nice note from the minister the other day thanking him for participating in the CHIP program, with a nice cheque for about \$380. The only problem is that he did not receive any insulation. My question to the minister is, how many such cheques have been sent out? Is this the reason the program keeps running out of money?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I have responsibility for the Ministry of Public Works, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the National Capital Commission, but not the Ministry of Labour. I believe the CHIP program comes under the corporation's responsibility. I am sure the corporation would be very happy to have that cheque back, because indeed we are pressed. It is a popular program, but it has some problems on which we are presently working.

Mr. McDermid: Madam Speaker, I would be happy to inform the minister that my honest constituent sent the cheque back immediately. The minister admitted in the House weeks ago that the administration of this particular program is completely inadequate. When will he smarten it up?

Mr. Cosgrove: Madam Speaker, I am happy to refer to an article which appeared in *The Globe and Mail* today—I am sure the hon. member would be pleased to see the article—referring to the steps that the Canadian General Standards Board in Ottawa has taken to bring some standardization to the delivery of the program into the marketplace and, second, the plans by the corporation to consider having any contractor under the program designated as the contractor recognized by the corporation. With these two steps, which we hope to be in place by July, we think that some of the administrative problems—of course, not totally the responsibility of CMHC—will be ironed out.

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ENERGY

CANADIAN MONEY AND EXPERTISE FLOWING INTO UNITED STATES

Mr. John Thomson (Calgary South): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Is the minister aware of the substantial sums of money and technical expertise which are flowing to the United States from Canadian oil and gas producers as a result of the difference in the crude oil price they receive in the United States as compared to that in Canada?

The minister may be aware that crude oil discovered in the United States nets \$32 per barrel to the producer, compared to the price of \$7 per barrel for that oil discovered in Canada. If the minister is aware of this condition, what steps does he intend to take to encourage Canadian explorers to stay and search for oil in Canada?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, indeed I am aware of some movements that have taken place for a variety of reasons. As the hon. member knows, those movements have taken place historically over the years between our two countries.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!