

The particular paragraph concerning natives and about which the hon. member has inquired was not the subject of any agreement. The matter was discussed and the paragraph outlines the view of the federal government. But at this stage I am in no position to speak on behalf of the provinces as to what they intend to do about the matter.

* * *

● (1450)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VENICE SUMMIT CONFERENCE

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Could he tell the House which ministers, if any, will be accompanying him to the summit conference in Venice?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, as is customary—and I believe this was the case in the summits we have attended in the past four or five years—I will be accompanied by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Finance. Because of the importance of energy on the agenda, I also intend to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to accompany the delegation. I believe this was the practice followed by the right hon. leader of the opposition, when he was prime minister, at the Tokyo Summit.

* * *

ENERGY

OIL PRICING AGREEMENT—DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCES

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Since that conference will occur prior to June 30, which is the date for the expiry of the present pricing agreement, does the minister expect to conclude an oil pricing agreement before he leaves the country? If not, can he tell the House what contingency plan the government has established in the event that the present pricing agreement expires before midnight on June 30 and no new agreement is signed?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I have already indicated to the House that I would hold meetings next week, presuming that I will attend the summit conference in Venice. I want to assure the Leader of the Opposition that I will be back well before June 30. In fact, I hope to be back the day after the end of the Venice conference in order to carry on the negotiations until June 30, if necessary.

Oral Questions

[English]

Mr. Clark: A supplementary question, Madam Speaker. This matter takes on some urgency since there has been so little progress realized, and perhaps no real progress attempted by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources since his swearing into office and the imminent expiry of the oil pricing agreement. It is interesting to know that his travel plans would involve him coming back to Canada before the agreement expires.

My question is, what contingency plan, if any, does the minister have in place? If he has none, I think the House will like him to say so, and if he has one, we would like him to tell us what it is.

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, I act on the basis that we will arrive at an agreement and not on the basis that we will have to prepare contingency plans because of a lack of agreement. Our objective has always been and remains to come to a settlement and I have already indicated that we will try our best to do so.

Since the Leader of the Opposition himself has attempted unsuccessfully for six months to achieve an agreement, he knows that it is no easy matter and that a lot of work needs to be done. I intend to have at least as much success in my negotiations as he did in his.

* * *

[English]

FISHERIES

SPORTS FISHERY AT MOUTH OF FRASER RIVER, B.C.

Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni): Madam Speaker, my question will be to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, in the absence of the minister.

The parliamentary secretary will be aware that the Fraser River chinook gillnet fishery was closed down yesterday and there was an announcement today that the sports fishery at the mouth of the Fraser River will be closed down on Friday night, as well as Rivers Inlet, for chinook salmon. The closure of that fishery, particularly the sports fishery, indicates the seriousness of the depletion of stocks in the Fraser River and elsewhere in British Columbia.

In view of this, I wonder if the parliamentary secretary could inform us how the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans can permit the Aluminum Company of Canada to divert the Nechako River in order to reduce the minimum flow requirement in that river, under the requirements of the department, from 1,000 cubic feet per second to 500 cubic feet per second, thus further reducing the health of the chinook salmon in the Nechako and Fraser Rivers?

How can the minister reconcile not forcing Kemano I and the Aluminum Company of Canada to meet the requirements