

Oral Questions

take issue with the accuracy of the hon. gentleman's assumptions. I think we can expect with regard to the price of natural gas domestically that in the process of bargaining between the purchaser and the seller it is very likely that the price of this commodity will increase. The discussion of a national energy policy, however, will be related to the use of this and other commodities over the longer run. For that reason, of course, we would be planning on a federal-provincial conference, as the Premier of Ontario suggested some time during the autumn.

Mr. Douglas: In view of the fact the chairman of the National Energy Board admitted before a standing committee of the House that our export gas was underpriced and in view of the fact the Alberta energy board estimated that deficiency to be 10 to 20 cents per thousand cubic feet, has the minister issued any instructions to the National Energy Board to bring the price of export gas in line so that Canada will get a fair return for the gas it is exporting to the United States?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I would point out to the hon. gentleman that the chairman made no such admission and the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board made no comment of that kind either. The figures he was referring to were the figures in the Stanford Research Institute Study which, of course, are a matter of some debate both within and outside the industry.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for a supplementary and then, before continuing with supplementaries, including the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain, the hon. member for Calgary North and others, I will recognize the hon. member for Richmond. For the moment, we will have the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands on his supplementary.

Mr. Douglas: In view of the fact that the Liberal party has been in government now for ten years—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas: —and in view of the fact we have been waiting during that period for a national energy policy, may I ask the minister if he can assure the House that we will have a national energy policy before we run out of energy resources?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May we have order, please. The hon. member for Richmond.

* * *

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE**FEED GRAIN—ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW POLICY—
DISCUSSION WITH EASTERN FARM ORGANIZATIONS**

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Agriculture.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

In view of his statement in the House around mid-February that he was drafting a new policy for the price of feed grain in eastern Canada, can he say if in fact something has been done in that connection? If so, when will this new policy be enunciated?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Speech from the Throne announced that it would be before the new crop year. We are working on this and hope to announce it even before that. This is a joint project with the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. We are doing a lot of work on it and are trying to come up with a policy that will be satisfactory to users of feed grains no matter where they are in Canada.

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): I have a supplementary Mr. Speaker.

The Minister of Agriculture says that this new policy is worked out in co-operation with the Canadian Wheat Board. Can he tell us if it is also made in consultation with organizations in eastern Canada?

[English]

Mr. Whelan: Yes, of course, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

ENERGY**NATIONAL POLICY—SUGGESTED WITHHOLDING OF
ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL UNITED STATES INDICATES ITS
POLICY**

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. From his answers to the Leader of the Opposition I detected that he has considerable rapport on the planning of joint policy-making with the premiers of Ontario and Alberta. Did the premiers of Alberta and Ontario agree with the minister's position that Canada should not declare a national energy policy until the Americans have stated their policy?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have not specifically discussed this with the two premiers. I am glad, however, that Premier Davis has supported the position I take. May I just say to the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands that we have had a policy for ten years.

• (1440)

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I will try again. What I am trying to get from the minister is a declaration of the government's intention not to announce Canadian energy policy until the Americans have stated theirs.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I said to the hon. member in committee and I just said to his leader that it is not the intention of the federal government to announce a uniquely Canadian energy policy. We intend to put the studies before the public, before parliament and