

[English]

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I wonder if the parliamentary secretary would tell us when he is going to get around to producing the documents asked for under motions Nos. 248 to 251 inclusive and what excuse he has for the delay?

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, this is a problem that we have had with all motions because the terms of the Official Languages Act require that these documents be produced in the House in both official languages. We have had some difficulty in having the answers to motions for papers prepared for the House of Commons given special priority by departments. We have instituted a program now to contract out translation of these documents. I will look into the hon. gentleman's problem and see if I can accelerate the process of translation.

• (1430)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ENERGY

PROSPECTIVE SHORTFALL IN OIL DELIVERIES FROM EACH NON-ARAB COUNTRY IN FIRST QUARTER OF 1974 IF "FORCE MAJEURE" CLAUSE INVOKED

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who has told the House that he anticipates a prospective shortfall of 125,000 barrels of oil a day from non-Arab countries as a result of the supplying companies invoking the *force majeure* clause. Can the minister give us, in respect of the first quarter of 1974, January, February and March, the prospective shortfall in the number of barrels per day with respect to each non-Arab country? In other words, will he break down that 125,000 barrels a day in terms of each non-Arab country?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the 125,000—well, the full 200,000 barrels a day is the expected worst figure on shortfall, and I would have to check how that was made up by the technical liaison committee. That is the source of the information.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I express my surprise that the minister should be unable to give the House this information on a matter of such importance as this which he has put before the country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: Can he give us the names of the Canadian companies who have been notified of any anticipated cuts in their deliveries of oil originating in non-Arab countries with respect to the first three months of next year, and the amount of the shortfall in respect of each Canadian company?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out in my remarks the other night and, indeed, pointed out

Oral Questions

to the hon. gentleman yesterday, this is an estimate of the maximum down-side that the Canadian companies could be faced with if, in fact, there was an allocation. There has not, in fact, been an allocation. What we are doing is, we are indicating—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: The minister is irresponsible and incompetent.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I might read to the House my remarks, as recorded on page 8179 of *Hansard*:

My understanding at the moment is that this redistribution has not taken place but the companies have indicated there is a prospective interruption under the *force majeure* provision of the supplying contracts.

There has been no interruption. What we have asked the companies to do is to state to us the worst possible situation they think they would be in if there were interruptions this winter, and that figure is an aggregate. The companies, of course, are the eastern Canadian refiners.

Mr. Stanfield: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House the minister told us that a number of international companies had invoked the *force majeure* clause and that this accounted for the reduction in the prospective deliveries of oil to Canada. I want to ask the minister whether any international company has told any Canadian company that in fact the *force majeure* clause will be invoked. In view of the statement the minister put before the Canadian people that we could anticipate cuts of 125,000 barrels per day from non-Arab countries, creating grave concern particularly in eastern Canada by this statement, what justification did the minister have in fact for making that statement about the 125,000 barrels per day shortfall?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition rose on a point of order. Perhaps I could respond on one. I said in my statement the other night and I said yesterday that we had calculated the worst possible position Canadians could be in.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): And, Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition should not try to twist the words I used.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister whether he has received word from any Canadian oil companies that they are faced with a prospective shortfall in the delivery of oil from non-Arab countries? If so, what companies are they? He must know them. He made the statement the other night. This is a very important question. What companies are they and what are the prospective cuts or shortfalls they are faced with? If the minister by any chance is so negligent in his office that he has not got this information at his fingertips, will he produce this information soon?