

Oral Questions

the minister of fisheries for Nova Scotia. We are trying to find a way of formulating a program of assistance.

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● (1240)

[Translation]

NATURAL RESOURCES

POSSIBLE IMPORT OF LIQUIFIED GAS

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Is it true that Canada is getting ready to export next year on the American market, 38 per cent of its production of natural gas and that in the event of such exportation, the province of Quebec will have to import liquified natural gas from Algeria—at double the Canadian price—to meet its consumption increase?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, our current export contracts were authorized until 1971 but since then the National Energy Board has not yet authorized exports, excess exports to the United States. The board is having a series of meetings to prepare a report on natural gas production for Canadians and we are waiting for the report from the National Energy Board. But it is not true that the Board recently authorized the exportation of natural gas.

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[English]

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

ADVERTISING CONTRACT AWARDED PRICE, RUBIN AND PARTNERS BY DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR—INQUIRY AS TO TREASURY BOARD APPROVAL

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the President of the Treasury Board. It arises out of a report that his colleague, the Minister of Labour, has a close personal connection with an advertising firm which has received a contract from the Ministry of Labour. Was the \$25,000 advertising contract which was awarded to Price, Rubin and partners, approved by Treasury Board? If so, when was that approval given?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, all contracts are approved according to the usual procedure and from what I have learned, there is absolutely nothing abnormal in this contract. I do not know whether—

[English]

Mr. Woolliams: Answer the question.

Mr. Chrétien: I will. Just because someone knows somebody, that is no reason for not giving that person a contract if he is good.

[Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent).]

POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF MINISTER IN APPROVAL OF ADVERTISING CONTRACT AWARDED PRICE, RUBIN AND PARTNERS BY DEPARTMENT

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, in view of the minister's answer and the contention that this matter may have been approved in the normal way, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. If the contract was approved in the normal way, as has been described, and in view of the personal relationships alluded to in the report, will the minister assure the House that he stayed out of the government's decision on this matter? Or, did the minister participate in that approval in the normal way and recommend this firm for that contract with his ministry?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I should like to make it clear to the House and to the hon. member that the contract to which the hon. member referred was approved in the area of multiculturalism. The firm had been awarded that contract by the previous minister and it is carrying on, certainly, with my support. There is no question about that. I should like to make it clear for the record, and this is important, because this matter involved an ex-law partner of a cabinet minister and their ex-law partner happened to be approached to be a director of a firm, that I have sold my interest in the firm. Prior to the last election I filed my income tax statement, unlike any other member of this House, with the press—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):—and this clearly indicated that I have sold out my interest and I have no interest whatsoever in this particular law firm.

ADVERTISING CONTRACT AWARDED BY DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR TO PRICE, RUBIN AND PARTNERS—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE ETHNIC PRESS WILL RECEIVE MONEY

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a final supplementary question. Of course, I must accept the minister's answer. Will he assure the House that after the 17 per cent fee of the \$250,000 being paid to this advertising firm is deducted, the balance, 83 per cent, will go to the ethnic newspapers to which it is directed, as intended.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I believe that advertising contracts of this kind are handled this way: The whole amount goes to the media. These advertising agencies theoretically are media reps. The media pays them the 17 per cent.

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IMMIGRATION

POSSIBLE ADMISSION OF ADDITIONAL CHILEAN REFUGEES

Mr. Jim Fleming (York West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Considering the continuing plight of refugees from the military coup in Chile, can the minister say if there