

*Oral Questions***THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION****EFFECT OF NEW LEGISLATION ON THE MONARCHY**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. However, he is not here and I direct it to the Deputy Prime Minister. Approximately three years ago, the Prime Minister made the statement in a speech in Quebec city that this government intended to achieve the end of the monarchy by placing the Governor General of Canada in the position of being able to do all those things that Her Majesty the Queen could do.

I ask the Deputy Prime Minister, why did the government, having this idea in mind all that time, wait three years before doing the proper, appropriate and constitutional thing of advising Her Majesty as to the changes to be made? I also ask why the government has decided to place before parliament such a bill, when section 91 of the BNA Act reads:

It shall be lawful for the Queen, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons, to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of Canada—

The proposed bill would delete the name and expression "The Queen" and substitute the Governor General of Canada in her place, thereby placing an end, in effect, to the monarchy in this country.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman maybe aware that it is the intention of the government to give first reading to a constitutional bill this afternoon. I understand that copies have been made available on a confidential basis. It is not my intention to debate or comment upon the contents of that bill until it comes before the House in the normal way, except to say that the allegations made by the right hon. gentleman will be proved to be totally wrong when the words of the bill are made known to the public of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I am using the Prime Minister's own expression in a speech in which he said three years ago, "We will put an end to the Queen of England having any authority over Canada." That, I am informed, is being effected by the simple means of repealing a portion of section 91, removing the expression "The Queen" and substituting the Governor General of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** If the Deputy Prime Minister thinks I am wrong in that regard, all I can say is that he had better reread it and explain to the House later today why we have this complete travesty of our constitutional system in order to get the support of individuals such as those who now interrupt and are not even fit to be parliamentary secretaries.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, it is very difficult to anticipate in the question period a bill which has not yet been presented to the House of Commons. But I

[Mr. Faulkner.]

believe that on policy grounds alone it ought to be stated to the right hon. gentleman, members of the House of Commons and the public of Canada, that under any proposal made or supported by this government the Queen will continue to be the Queen of Canada and the sovereign of this country.

**Mr. Alexander:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. He seems to have vacated the premises, trying to solve the dilemma of the Post Office. I would ask that you keep me on your list until he returns.

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**FOREIGN INVESTMENT****TAKEOVER OF HUSKY OIL—APPLICATION OF FIRA**

**Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in his capacity as minister responsible for the administration of the Foreign Investment Review Act. My question is with respect to the apparent desire of those controlling Husky Oil to accept the offer to purchase their interest made by Occidental Oil.

I ask the minister if he will make a commitment now, on behalf of himself and the government, that if Occidental does not file an application for the approval of the Canadian aspects of this takeover by the government under the Foreign Investment Review Act, he will not condone any end runs by Occidental around the act but, instead, will formally demand the filing of such an application, thereafter taking every other step provided for in the act to ensure that this important transaction is fully reviewed by FIRA and the cabinet in terms of whether it would provide the necessary degree of significant benefit to Canada.

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, as far as I am aware, there has been no expression in the papers, certainly not to me privately, of Occidental's desire to escape or to do an end run around FIRA. As I understand it, the application to purchase Husky shares by Occidental would definitely have to come before FIRA, and I would certainly think the board and the commissioner would view it as they have all other applications and look for significant advantage to Canada.

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**CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD****FINAL PAYMENT FOR NEXT CROP YEAR**

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the annual renewal of the Chinese wheat contract, can the minister tell the House and the western producers—I know he cannot give an exact price—whether the price will be high enough to give a final payment for the next crop year, because