

Oral Questions

● (1450)

[English]

OIL—SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF MARKETING BOARD TO PURCHASE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CRUDE IN ORDER TO AVERAGE PRICE ACROSS CANADA

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo-Cambridge):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that crude oil west of the Ottawa line is now at a lower price and hopefully will continue to be a lower price, while east of that line the price will be higher, is the minister giving consideration to establishing a marketing board that will purchase both domestic and foreign crude with a view to averaging the price so that all Canadians will pay the same price and, hopefully, a lower price?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** No, Mr. Speaker.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

REPRESENTATIONS BY NURSES FOR REOPENING OF PAY NEGOTIATIONS—MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OF TREASURY BOARD

**Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. As a result of the meetings between nurses under federal jurisdiction and ministers of the government, referred to Friday by the minister, can he advise whether the government is taking any action on their representations, and has the minister yet made any attempt to meet with representatives of the nurses?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, a meeting has been arranged of representatives of the nurses' association and myself for tomorrow.

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ENERGY

TAR SANDS OIL—RELATION TO TAXABLE INCOME OF PROVINCIAL ROYALTIES PAYABLE BY SYNCRUDE

**Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary arising out of a previous question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Does the government accept the position that provincial royalties payable by Syncrude will be calculated as a pre-tax charge on income, and is the minister now satisfied that no federal impediment remains to the development of the Syncrude project?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, a question of taxation of that kind would relate to the responsibilities of my colleague, the Minister of Finance.

**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):** Then I direct my question to the Minister of Finance.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday four ministers representing the government of Alberta, together with my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and myself, reviewed the arrangements between the companies comprising the consortium called Syncrude and the province of Alberta to see whether they could be made to fit in with the announced guidelines for mining taxation policy. Further to that, officials met yesterday afternoon. I had a further meeting this morning with Gordon Miniely, the Minister of Finance of Alberta, and we will continue these negotiations.

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AGRICULTURE

BEEF—IMPORTS FROM UNITED STATES—PROTECTION OF CANADIAN PRODUCERS

**Mr. William C. Frank (Middlesex):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. In light of the placing last August of an embargo on Canadian beef going to the United States, which was considered by the government important enough to call a special cabinet meeting before putting it into force, why is it, considering the disastrous position in which Canadian beef producers now find themselves, a special cabinet meeting was not called last weekend to consider the steps necessary to protect these beef producers?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have some doubt as to a question asked in those terms. The hon. member is not seeking information. He is presenting an argument in support of his case. Perhaps he would like to ask his question in other terms.

**Mr. Frank:** Is any special cabinet meeting now being considered as was the case when an embargo was imposed last August?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, cabinet meetings are called at my behest. The matter of time is one of internal administration. I call them as often as I find it necessary.

**Mr. Frank:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. In light of the minister's statement yesterday that he has been in constant communication with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association discussing imposition of a further tariff on American over-fat cattle and dressed beef coming into Canada and in light of the Statistics Canada report that the farm input price index rose 7.3 per cent in the third quarter of this year, can the minister inform the House of any further results of those meetings?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I have been in touch with my colleagues, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. If there is anything to be said changing current policy, it will be said.