

Oral Questions

Mr. Whelan: We already know in some areas of manufacture that there is increased cost because the rock phosphate that is brought from other countries has tripled and in some cases quadrupled in price, so this will be added to the cost of fertilizers and there is only one place from which it can be obtained. Also, in the province of British Columbia the government has seen fit to raise the price of natural gas by 81 per cent and it is going to cost more to produce fertilizer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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INDUSTRY

SOAP PROJECT—ADDITION OF FOURTH PARTNER TO GROUP—SUGGESTED MEETING WITH MINISTER TO DETERMINE IF FURTHER ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

Mr. Jack Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact the proposed \$200 million plus SOAP project requires a fourth partner in addition to Polysar, Dupont and Union Carbide, has the minister received any indication that such a fourth party has in fact been found?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have received unofficial word this morning that a fourth party is being added to the group. I welcome this news because from my point of view the whole project is very worth while and I hope it will go forward shortly.

Mr. Cullen: In view of the importance of this project to the petrochemical industry in Canada, will the minister agree to meet with officials of this project to determine what further assistance might be necessary from the federal government?

Mr. Gillespie: I would be pleased to meet with them on an early occasion.

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SPORTS

SUSPENSION OF JOCELYN LOVELL BY CANADIAN CYCLING ASSOCIATION—REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE TO SECURE REINSTATEMENT

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare and I have sent him notice of it. In view of the fact that Mr. Jocelyn Lovell, an outstanding Canadian cyclist, has been suspended by the Canadian Cycling Association as a disciplinary measure and that this suspension will last until after the Pan-American Games to be held in Australia in February, and in view of the fact the government has invested approximately \$30,000 in his achievements to date, would the minister take steps through his office to have this athlete reinstated in time for the Pan-American Games so that the taxpayers' money will not have been spent in vain?

[Mr. Korchinski.]

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will make sure to inquire about further developments of this situation, but it is not for my department to give directives to sports organizations; they have their own disciplinary measures and their own rules to comply with.

[English]

SUGGESTED ACTION TO ENSURE TAXPAYERS' MONEY NOT WASTED BY SUSPENSION OF ATHLETES

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): I have a supplementary question for the same minister. In view of the fact his department is responsible for grants that go to Sports Canada and to the athletes of this country, can the minister advise the House whether he will take steps to ensure that other disciplinary measures that are taken will not result in such a waste of money to the taxpayers?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly contact this organization, but I repeat that such organizations do not live exclusively on government subsidies. Besides, I think sport associations to be essential to the well-being of sports in Canada and that on the contrary we must encourage discipline in these organizations.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ALLEGED LACK OF MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CANADIAN CONTINGENT IN MIDDLE EAST PEACEKEEPING FORCE

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister advise the House why it took the government nearly a month before it sent adequate medical services to back up our peacekeeping force in Egypt and these services are being sent today only because of the resignation of a senior medical officer in disgust at the inadequacies of the services that had been provided?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say first of all that some of the unfortunate remarks that have been circulated on this matter are related to a local hospital and not to the Canadian medical services. I would also like to assure the House, and particularly the families of our personnel in the United Nations Emergency Force, that our participation was carefully and soundly planned and particularly well planned in relation to medical services.

Mr. Baldwin: Like the energy crisis.

Mr. Richardson: When our contingent first left on November 10 they had complete medical facilities for a group of 400. In addition, arrangements were made with two civilian hospitals in Cairo, and we also planned, as you have indicated, and have sent a full Canadian 20-bed