

## Oil—U.S. Import Restrictions

the president of the Socony-Vacuum company. If the policy under consideration there were to be implemented, would there in fact be a substantial reduction of the present volume of oil being put through that line? If so, does the minister have any information available as to approximately what percentage and what the amount would be in dollar value?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** The Daw-Jones ticker put out a message yesterday which was copied in the newspaper. The hon. member will find it in this morning's *Gazette*. It indicated a sharp reduction in the deliveries to the refinery in the state of Washington through the Trans Mountain pipe line. However, the telegram that I have just read from the president of Socony-Vacuum states that he was misquoted; that the voluntary reduction that he was proposing to the Senate committee would take place in countries on the eastern seaboard, and that the take from the Trans Mountain pipe line would not be affected.

**Mr. Fulton:** If this policy were to be implemented in the United States, would he then be forced to curtail the importations from the Trans Mountain line?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** I do not know that they would pick out a particular pipe line. There is certain legislation before congress, and a certain program has been announced by the executive. Whether either of them would affect the situation of the Trans Mountain pipe line, I would not care to say. Not being a shareholder, I am not very much concerned.

**Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition):** I should like to direct a supplementary question in relation to the subject which has been raised and which is of such vital importance. Will the Minister of Trade and Commerce give consideration to the possibility of pointing out to the government of the United States, in addition to the specific subjects already mentioned, the possible effect on confidence in the investment of funds from the United States in Canada if any policy were followed not only in relation to oil but in other products, whereby under voluntary arrangements restrictions were imposed that would be just as effective as if there were actually barriers between the two countries?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition has put forward a good suggestion. I thought we had covered almost every reason why the threatened action should not be taken, but I shall be

very glad to suggest to our ambassador that he keep this suggestion in mind as well.

[Later:]

**Mr. Erhart Regier (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** I should like to ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the serious representations which he has made to the United States government, may I ask him whether any representations were made to his department on this subject matter by United States oil companies, Canadian oil companies or the oil workers' union of Canada? If so, which of these three organizations made representations?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** To the best of my knowledge the department has been proceeding entirely on its own initiative. No representations have been made to me personally from any source. I would have to have a search of the department made to know whether representations were made to the department.

**Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart):** Do I understand the minister to say that representations were made on March 16? This is March 23 and I should like to know if he received any word since then as to how those representations were received.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** I have not the documents before me, as I gave them to the *Hansard* reporter. I think representations were made somewhat earlier than March 16 but no official reply has been received.

**Mr. Fleming:** With reference to the question just asked by the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart (Mr. Coldwell), the minister in his statement did say that it was on March 16 that the Canadian ambassador had made these representations or had submitted his note to the United States authorities. In the copy of the aide-mémoire which I have now seen it is indicated that it was presented by the Canadian ambassador to the state department of the United States government on March 8, 1955. Is the minister in a position to say anything further about the response?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** I think that is correct; I think it was presented on March 8 and my memory perhaps was at fault in giving the later date. There has been no formal reply to the note. My hon. friend will appreciate that the matter is being discussed in a committee of the United States Senate and we would hardly expect to get an early reply under those circumstances.