

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** On a point of order. Mr. Speaker, I asked a question of the Minister of Transport, and the purpose in asking the question was that the minister had clearly misunderstood the intent of the question I asked yesterday, when I asked him about an appeal to cabinet and he referred to an investigation by the CTC into the matter of air fares. I was merely trying to get an answer to the question about an appeal by the Consumer's Association to the cabinet. Your Honour recognized another member, but I was not repeating the question that I asked yesterday. In view of the misunderstanding, I think it is only fair to ask the minister whether in fact the cabinet is going to make a decision and an announcement on this issue.

**Mr. Speaker:** That, as the hon. member has well stated, was precisely the question he put yesterday, not once but twice. The minister gave an answer with which the hon. member was not satisfied. When recognized today the hon. member said that he wanted another answer to the same question, and in doing so invited me to do the only thing I could do, which was to rule that he had repeated his question for the third time. Other members have suffered from the same deficiency before and have met with the same result.

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#### LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

##### ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF CONSTRUCTION— ISSUANCE OF SILVER DOLLAR IN RECOGNITION

**Mr. Speaker:** Before proceeding to routine proceedings I know hon. members would want me to take just 30 seconds to make an announcement. I think all hon. members share the pride we have in the very excellent Library of Parliament that serves the Canadian Parliament, both the Senate and the House of Commons. This year we are commemorating the one-hundredth anniversary of the construction of the library. I am very pleased to announce to hon. members, as will be announced by appropriate officials throughout the country today, that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) has authorized the issuance of a commemorative silver dollar coin which will mark that event. I know all hon. members would want this brought to their attention.

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

#### ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

##### COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

###### MISCELLANEOUS ESTIMATES

Ninth report of Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates, in both official languages—Mr. Leblanc (Laurier).

#### Natural Gas Supplies

##### MISCELLANEOUS PRIVATE BILLS AND STANDING ORDERS

Third and fourth reports of Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills and Standing Orders, in both official languages—Mr. Loiselle.

[Editor's Note: For texts of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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#### ENERGY

##### TABLING OF REPORT OF NATURAL ENERGY BOARD ON CANADIAN NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES AND REQUIREMENTS

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to lay on the table of the House the report of the National Energy Board on Canadian natural gas supplies and requirements.

##### STATEMENT BY MINISTER ON NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES AND REQUIREMENTS

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the report of the National Energy Board on natural gas supplies which I have just tabled confirms earlier concerns that natural gas supplies will not be adequate in the near term to meet both projected increases in domestic demand and existing export commitments. It is clear from the information presented that there will have to be some curtailment of our export contracts and that growth of demand in Canada will have to be restrained until frontier supplies of gas are available.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the board acknowledges that the events which have transpired since 1970 were not envisaged when the surplus was calculated. New discoveries have not taken place at the rate expected and deliverability characteristics of existing and new reserves have been less favourable than anticipated. There have been other significant changes in the situation including the impairment of production in gas fields in northern British Columbia, the rapid rise on the OPEC oil price causing natural gas to be underpriced in relation to other fuels, and the opening up of new markets in Quebec and for petrochemical and ammonia production. In the Board's opinion all these factors, coupled with the industry's concern about fiscal regimes and pricing policies, have given rise to the present supply situation.

[English]

The question is how to deal with this shortfall. It is clear that Canadians should make every effort to restrain new demands for natural gas and to avoid wastage in existing demands. The powers requested by the National Energy Board for the allocation of natural gas supplies may well be required to reinforce the effect of conservation and pricing policies. Prior to a final decision on such action, however, discussions will be held with the affected provinces. The government intends to ensure that reasonable Canadian requirements are met consistent with the wise use of this scarce natural resource, but that other demands are to be discouraged so as to enable our obligations to