

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member for Calgary North who is rising to ask a supplementary. All the questions asked this evening will be supplementaries, because the order of the House is that for the next six or seven minutes members will ask questions about the statement made by the minister. I will try to recognize as many members as possible. Perhaps we should now try to limit the number of supplementaries asked by each member.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, would the minister mind explaining to the country and to the House why the decision to go ahead was not made in 1969, when the industry met with the government and suggested that to guarantee security of supply of crude petroleum, particularly to the Montreal and eastern area, a pipeline should be built? I ask this question particularly in view of this government's knowledge of the national oil policy, which they like to point the finger at, dating back to 1961 but which they endorsed for ten years. Why are we waiting now, in the middle of a crisis, when there is no shortage of energy in Canada? Was it a matter of procrastination on the part of the government?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows very well, at that time, and really up until the beginning of this year, there was a very substantial price penalty for consumers if western crude came into the Montreal market—

Mr. Bawden: How big? How much?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): That price penalty would have been paid if their suggestion had been taken.

[Translation]

SUBSIDIES BY SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT TO
MULTINATIONAL OIL COMPANIES

Mr. Jean-Marie Boisvert (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

I should like to know if he intends to recommend to the Minister of National Health and Welfare subsidizing multi-national oil corporations in view of the loss they are going to suffer?

[English]

OIL—USE BY CANADIAN FORCES ABROAD

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed either to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources or to the Minister of National Defence. Throughout his statement this afternoon the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources was alluding to oil import curtailments and to the oil supply situation in Canada, but at page 6 of his statement he said that "to achieve substantial cutbacks in fuel requirements" the Department of National Defence is going to cut back "both at home and abroad." I was curious as to the validity of cutting down abroad in order to get more fuel at home. I would like an assurance that some of Canada's short

Oral Questions

supply of oil is not going out to such places as the Middle East.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I can give that assurance, Mr. Speaker.

PIPELINE TO MONTREAL—STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS
WITH INTERPROVINCIAL PIPE LINE—PURCHASES OF OIL
BY CANADIAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, regarding the Montreal pipe line, has the government reached any decision, agreement or understanding with Interprovincial Pipe Line?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Not as yet, Mr. Speaker, but as I have said there are a number of important questions being discussed at the moment, particularly with regard to financing.

Mr. Andre: As a further supplementary regarding the supply of crude oil through special purchases supposedly made by the government, to which the minister has alluded, how much oil has been purchased by the Canadian Commercial Corporation, at what prices, and when will it be delivered?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, this falls under the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister of Supply and Services. My recollection is that a very substantial quantity has been purchased, to be paid for at the dates of delivery as determined over the period of the winter. I am afraid the hon. member would have to address himself to the minister for the details.

• (2040)

TRUCK TRANSPORTATION OF OIL IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister. With regard to utilizing commercial traffic on our highways, does he intend to have some of his officials give consideration to the difficulties in Ontario respecting PCV licences, and the fact that all transports travelling out of northern Ontario are loaded and return empty? There could be a saving of about 100 per cent with most of our traffic in and out of northern Ontario.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the suggestion and I shall be glad to look into it.

MEASURES TO ENSURE OIL SUPPLIES TO YUKON AND
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister on behalf of the many thousands of Canadians who are perhaps a little more concerned with this matter than the average Canadian, and for a longer period of time. The Yukon and the Northwest Territories are in a different situation in regard to getting supplies of home heating and other fuels that are vital to survival in the north. What action is the government taking to ensure