

Oral Questions

have not had time to see. If he is asking a general question about changes, let me remind him that a couple of years ago on this side we were talking about changes in the auto pact and the hon. member was awfully shocked that we would even be contemplating them. So the government's policy changes, and so does the opposition's.

Mr. Broadbent: As is frequently the case, the Prime Minister has his facts wrong. The changes the government was talking about a few years ago were to remove the safeguards in the pact, at which time the Prime Minister was under pressure from the U.S. because they had a slight imbalance of \$200 million in 1970, and they were raising hell. We now have a deficit of \$2 billion, and I would like the Prime Minister to tell the House when the Canadian government will start raising that issue in a forceful way with the Americans.

Mr. Trudeau: I do not accept the facts as stated by the hon. member concerning the attitude of the government, but it does point out that sometimes the pact works to the advantage of one country, sometimes to that of the other. The hon. member certainly cannot blame the government for having wanted two years ago to look at the pact so that in the long term it would work in the interests of Canada. What I am saying is that then he was afraid of any change and now he wants changes. He should be more consistent.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the changes we favoured a few years ago are precisely the ones which, had they been implemented, would not have led to the kind of massive deficits we have today. When the Prime Minister says that sometimes the pact works to the advantage of the U.S. and sometimes to the advantage of Canada, does he see that a deficit position for Canada in eight of the 11 years with a cumulative imbalance of more than \$5 billion is the kind of ebb and flow in such an agreement that his government favours continuing in its present form?

● (1130)

Mr. Trudeau: What the hon. member conveniently forgets is that before the pact came in we had an enormous deficit, and it was this Liberal government under the present Minister of Public Works which brought in this pact, which has worked very favourably for Canada. We now have a much better situation than before the Liberal government brought in this change.

Mr. Broadbent: You had better check your figures.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE**DAIRYING—REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF DELAY IN DISTRIBUTING NEW REGULATIONS CONCERNING QUOTAS**

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture.

Having received many complaints from my area about the publication and distribution to dairy producers of the new regulations on production quotas and considering that

[Mr. Trudeau.]

such delay hinders the planning of their future production, can the minister tell us today when he expects to send those new regulations to dairy producers?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the provincial marketing boards, associations, public utilities or whatever they may be are the ones which are to distribute these, and if they are not distributed, I will check and find out why.

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ENERGY**OIL—AGREEMENT THAT PRICE SHOULD NOT EXCEED UNITED STATES PRICE**

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Now that the first ministers conference is over—and I realize that no agreement was reached on price yesterday—I wonder if the Prime Minister could tell the House and the country whether at least an agreement that the price of crude oil in Canada should not rise above the average price of crude oil in the United States was reached.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, that was something we all agreed on, including the producing provinces.

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RESOURCES**CANADA'S POSITION ON MINING OF SEABED—CONSULTATIONS WITH UNITED STATES**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Arising out of the failure of the Law of the Sea Conference to agree on a treaty governing the exploration of the mineral resources of the deep seabed the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has had conversations with the United States secretary of commerce, Mr. Elliott Richardson, on the subject of commercial uses of the seabed. Given the fact that the United States is keen to proceed with the exploration of the mineral resources of the deep seabed, an activity which has very serious implications for Canada, can the minister tell the House Canada's position on this important matter and inform us if it is his intention to hold immediate discussion with his United States counterpart in order to learn the U.S. position and hopefully to resolve this thorny problem?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will understand that that is a very general question which was part of the discussion which took place yesterday between the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and his counterpart in the United States. As a minister of energy I do not have any direct counterpart in the United States; therefore, I would expect the discussions to take place between the Secretary of State for External Affairs and perhaps the state department of the United States.