

Oral Questions

forwarded by Petro-Canada to the Government. Perhaps the Minister has received it I do not know. I have not seen it. As far as the other representations which have been made to the Government are concerned, the energy critic for the Liberal Party had the representations made to him, as they were made to us, and I suggest the Hon. Member get them from his colleague.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Other than just listening, which is very commendable, I would like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary how many jobs have to be lost and how much economic havoc do western Canadians have to sustain before the Government will provide to Parliament the options it is considering with the producing provinces, with respect to a very difficult issue affecting western Canada?

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, we are as concerned as anyone about the falling oil prices and what is happening in Alberta. We are in constant contact with our partners in the Western Accord, the producing provinces. They have not requested a renegotiation of the Western Accord. They do not want another fiasco like the National Energy Program which was a knee-jerk reaction by the former Government to pricing in the oil industry.

We are working very closely with the provinces and when we have something to announce, or if there are any amendments to the Western Accord, they will be made jointly. However, to date there have been no requests for amendments to that wonderful Accord about which westerners are cheering.

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NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

CHEMICAL WARFARE INQUIRY

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. Would he tell us whether or not he was asked at the NATO Council Meeting last week in the Federal Republic of Germany to commit Canadian troops in any way to chemical warfare preparedness or participation within the NATO command?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, without setting the precedent of commenting on discussions which go on within the four walls of NATO meetings, I can tell the hon. gentleman: Of course not. The question is right off the wall and is intended to establish something in an area where the Government is simply not involved.

I do not know how many times I have to repeat that the Canadian Government is not involved in any form of chemical warfare.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I find that answer rather strange in view of the fact that it was on the agenda of the North Atlantic Assembly and it is presently on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister give a categorical statement, a clear statement, that under no circumstances—and I am not talking about the production of chemical weapons—will Canadian troops anywhere be involved in the use of chemical weapons or chemical warfare?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I appeal to the reason of everyone in focusing on that question. How on earth can any reasonable and sane individual predict that our troops will under no circumstances be involved in whatever kind of warfare which might break out? I can give no such assurance. We are certainly not planning to get involved. We are planning on peace in this country and our every effort is directed toward the achievement of a lasting, stable world peace.

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PENITENTIARIES

RECOMMENDED ABOLITION OF MANDATORY SUPERVISION
RELEASE

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. On Friday a coroner's jury investigating the death of an alleged murderer who was free on mandatory supervision, recommended very strongly, again, that mandatory release be abolished. Will the Solicitor General advise the House how long it will be and how many Canadians are going to die before we pass the legislation abolishing mandatory release which was reported back to this House almost two months ago?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have not had a chance to see the report of the coroner's jury myself as yet. However, I have seen press reports. According to the press reports I have seen, it is not calling for the abolition of mandatory supervision but rather for passage of Bill C-67.

As the Hon. Member will know, that Bill is currently in prestudy before the Senate and is at report stage here in the House with the New Democratic Party having filed, I believe, over 30 amendments to the Bill. I believe this Bill is important for public safety and I call upon Members of Parliament to pass the Bill without further delay.