

[English]

INQUIRY AS TO AGREEMENT BY SASKATCHEWAN TO SELL CRUDE PETROLEUM AT LESS THAN ALBERTA PRICE

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister. Yesterday the leader of the New Democratic Party chose to talk about legislation in Alberta on the price of crude petroleum. Can the minister tell us whether the Saskatchewan government and Premier Blakeney—Saskatchewan supplies a certain percentage of crude petroleum through the Interprovincial Pipeline that comes east—have agreed under any conditions or under any method to sell crude petroleum at less than the price at which Alberta petroleum is sold?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have no such agreement with that province.

NATURAL GAS PRICE INCREASE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—PRIOR DISCUSSION BY MINISTER WITH PREMIER

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): When the premier of British Columbia doubled the price of natural gas to consumers in that province and thus took advantage of those consumers who are Canadians too, did the minister have any discussions with the premier with a view to reducing the price?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I did not have the pleasure of discussing it with the premier of British Columbia.

An hon. Member: But the Prime Minister did.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I did have an opportunity of discussing it with a member of that great and famous clan to which I belong. He indicated that the decision to increase the price of natural gas in British Columbia by the NDP government was a firm decision and that the increase would be 81 per cent.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Another socialist sheik.

Mr. Fairweather: Sheik Barrett.

Mr. Hees: Let's have a word from Sheik Douglas.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East followed by the hon. member for Trinity.

EASTERN CANADA OIL SUPPLIES—REQUEST FOR BREAKDOWN BY PROVINCES OF POSSIBLE SHORTFALL

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister regarding the pipeline to Montreal and the fact, which has been mentioned a number of times, that the river freezes over. Can the minister say whether or not he can identify, so that we can keep this dialogue straight in our own minds, the amount in barrels of the shortfall that will occur or could possibly occur in Quebec, the three Maritime provinces and Newfoundland? In other words, is the minister able to break this down rather than continue to lump it together

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so that we may better understand the necessity for adequate transportation systems?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I cannot break it down between the provinces. As the hon. member knows, some of the provinces supply others. I think that kind of breakdown, at least in the Atlantic provinces, would not give a full account of the resources available.

POSITION OF SAUDI ARABIA ON SUPPLYING OF OIL TO CANADA—AMOUNT SHIPPED IN LAST 30 DAYS—COME-BY-CHANCE REFINERY OUTPUT

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Would the minister be good enough to reconcile for the benefit of the House the view he related from the Saudi Arabian minister that Canada is on the middle list with the statement of Mr. J. A. Armstrong, one of Canada's most knowledgeable oil men, that as early as October 22 Saudi Arabia had advised one of the Exxon affiliates that oil would not be supplied to Canada and that this information was given to the minister?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as a result of that information on October 22, as the hon. gentleman will recall, our ambassador to Riyadh, who actually resides in Beirut, visited Riyadh for the purpose of confirming the position of the government of Saudi Arabia on this question and was assured that Canada was not on the embargo list although shipments would not take place to the Portland pipeline. I took the opportunity of speaking to the Saudi Arabian minister, Sheik Yamani, who was in New York yesterday, and he confirmed to me again that Canada was not on the embargo list.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Bell: Wait until tomorrow.

Mr. Hellyer: Can the minister advise the House how much oil has been shipped from Saudi Arabia to Canada in the last 30 days?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I would have to seek information on that.

Mr. Hellyer: It would appear that if in fact we are on the middle list, there is an asterisk and a footnote beside Canada's name saying "ship no oil".

My final supplementary is this: can the minister advise the House whether or not his advisory committee discounted the output of the Come-By-Chance refinery and the availability of that output to the eastern part of Canada by 100 per cent or by some lesser percentage for the coming season?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I do not have the actual percentage, but the over-all figure that I have given to the House is a rounded figure for the eventualities that the committee thought could occur in eastern Canada.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker—