

Oral Questions

and I think quite rightly so. We do have a reciprocal exchange of information between our people who are investigating applicants for landed immigrant status and officials of the countries from which they come. When we ask for such information from the agencies of other countries, we certainly must be prepared to reciprocate when they ask us for information. This is a routine matter. In view of the serious concern always existing in Canada about the possibility of criminals entering this country, I think this is only wise and, indeed, that we should be very thankful such an exchange of information is available to us.

● (1510)

Mr. Reynolds: Is it a fact that this information was sent to the United States Attorney's office for use in prosecuting a case, and was not a communication between the two governments for information?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I indicated yesterday that we had conveyed this information to the United States internal revenue service. They indicated to us that they had, inadvertently and in error, passed it along. They sent us a letter of apology indicating that such a mistake would not happen again.

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ENERGY**PURCHASE OF PETROLEUM BY CANADIAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION—AVAILABILITY OF SUFFICIENT FUNDS**

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to earlier questions and is addressed to the Minister of Supply and Services. In view of the fact the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has instructed the Canadian Commercial Corporation, under the responsibility of the Minister of Supply and Services, to use the funds supplied for the defence contingency fund, under the authority of the Minister of National Defence, to purchase oil supplies around the world and in view of the fact it has already purchased 40 million gallons of petroleum, I should like to ask the minister whether in fact there are sufficient funds available and, if not, what action is proposed by the government to ensure that there are funds available to meet this contingency operation?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, there is an ample supply of funds, but there is a shortage of oil on the international market. If we can find oil and negotiate acceptable terms, to cope with present conditions in Canada, the government will then make available to my department the necessary funds for the purchases.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to advise hon. members that we have reached the end of the question period, or just about. Perhaps hon. members might allow the Chair to recognize the hon. member for Témiscamingue and the right hon. member for Prince Albert before calling orders of the day.

[Mr. Andras.]

[*Translation*]

VETERANS AFFAIRS**REQUEST THAT APPLICATION OF LIONEL BERTRAND FOR PENSION INCREASE BE EXPEDITED**

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): I should like to ask the Minister of Veterans Affairs a question which concerns all the members of this House as well as the pensioners of the Department.

Recently, I drew the minister's attention to case No. SC-18023 involving a Mr. Lionel Bertrand who was requesting a pension adjustment. On September 26 last, the minister replied that it would take several months before the Commission would make a decision. Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister whether there actually is an energy shortage in his department since it takes that much time to take care of veterans who wish to adjust their pension.

[*English*]

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the hon. gentleman's request is no. We are pretty well supplied with energy in my department. We have 24 commissioners listed and 24 working. The Pension Act is being dealt with quite well. If the hon. member knows of any cases which he feels should have priority over and above what seems to be the case, I will be glad to get the information for him.

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ENERGY**REQUEST THAT COMBINES INVESTIGATION BRANCH SECURE FROM OIL COMPANIES CONTRACTS CONTAINING "FORCE MAJEURE" CLAUSE**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Having listened during the last couple of days to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources explaining the difficulty in which he finds himself, it would appear that there is a serious morass of neglect of the Canadian people on the part of the government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I would ask the Prime Minister this question. In view of the threat or potential threat of Canadian subsidiaries carrying out the wishes of their mother countries under agreements which allegedly contain the clause to which reference has been made over and over again, will the Prime Minister have the combines investigation branch get in touch with these companies and have them produce the contracts which allegedly have these provisions within them? I ask that this be done because if they are protecting themselves behind such arrangements, then they are indeed, in my estimation, committing offences contrary to the Combines Investigation Act. I ask the Prime Minister whether he will act so that we will know what is in these contracts. Surely the Canadian people should not be made subservient to a group of oil companies which apparently have no regard for Canada as a whole.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!