

Minister change the restrictive and discriminatory rule and permit local people to rent these vacant homes and apartments to ease the critical housing shortage in the Northwest Territories?

Right Hon. P.E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the minister who has been quite ill for some days, I will take notice of the question.

Mr. Gilbert: Is the Prime Minister aware that the same problem pertains in Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik and that the local people feel that if persons are from the south they can get accommodation whereas if they are from the local area, they are denied accommodation. Will the Prime Minister also direct his attention to this and have this very serious problem cleared up?

Mr. Charles Turner (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of the question and supply the information to the member.

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ENERGY

JOINT STUDY OF CANDU TECHNOLOGY WITH UNITED STATES—ACTION TO ENSURE CANADIAN TECHNOLOGY REMAINS IN PUBLIC SECTOR

Mr. J.J. Blais (Nipissing): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It arises out of the report that there is to be a joint study of CANDU technology as requested by the United States Energy Administration for Research and Development. In view of the fact that in the United States nuclear technology is in the private sector, and undoubtedly Westinghouse and General Electric will be requested to take part in this exchange, what measures is the minister proposing to take in order to ensure that Canadian technology remains in the public sector and under Canadian control?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, it is quite true that the United States administration has sought further discussions with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited with regard to the CANDU reactor. Indeed, within a matter of some weeks, AECL officials will be meeting with the Americans for the purpose of discussing this further. I am not certain that this will yield any kind of commercial arrangement between the two countries. I will have to determine after these discussions, and when there is an arrangement, whether it would be possible or indeed desirable to confine this to the public sector, the public power utilities only in the United States, or have it available on a general basis. We will be selling this technology, if there is to be an arrangement, under the full safeguards arrangements and, indeed, make certain that Canada gets the best possible return on its outstanding nuclear system.

CANADIAN FILM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

REASON FOR LARGE NUMBER OF GRANTS TO CARL LEMAY

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, I had intended to direct this question to the Secretary of State. I notice he has left the chamber. I will therefore

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direct it to the Prime Minister. In an answer to a question on the order paper, No. 2,412, given me by the Secretary of State, he indicated that a Mr. Carl LeMay of Montreal was given help for ten different movie productions in the past several years by the Canadian Film Development Corporation. Would the fact that Mr. LeMay has received more than any other producer have anything to do with the fact that his brother is assistant commissioner of the National Film Board?

● (1450)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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ENERGY

NATURAL GAS—PERCENTAGE OF REDUCTION IN EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES—POSSIBILITY OF GRANTING ENERGY BOARD POWERS OF ALLOCATION

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In the face of yesterday's statement by the National Energy Board that our natural gas reserves are much less than we had anticipated, which will require a decline in the exports that we make of this important product, and since current natural gas exports to the United States are averaging about 45 per cent of our annual production, could the minister tell us what percentage of exports to the United States he is aiming for in his reduction of use of this resource?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think we would hesitate to give specific figures before having a full opportunity to discuss with the United States the impact of this decision on various American users. The view of the government is that with a commodity of this kind, which if withdrawn could have a severely adverse effect upon the United States community, we should have the fullest possible discussions with the Americans before taking any final decision. For that reason, the National Energy Board and the government have been reluctant to set out at this point, and without further discussion, any strict numerical limit.

Mr. Gillies: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister intend to grant to the National Energy Board the power to allocate natural gas among the provinces as requested and, if so, would that involve direct rationing, for example, at the consumer level?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the statement yesterday, the board has sought the powers of allocation, and if they are to be achieved it would require an amendment to the National Energy Board Act which would have to be brought into the House. At this point we have not finalized our decision on whether allocation would be the best and most desirable proceeding. We would like to talk to the provincial governments in this regard. If we find that the only way to achieve a good allocation is by a statutorily imposed allocation, then we would seek that remedy. As for allocation at the retail level, this, of course, would be the responsibility