

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**OIL****AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES—
ASSURANCE AGAINST LESSENING
OF CONTROL OF WATER
RESOURCES**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. Would the right hon. gentleman assure the House that any agreement which the government works out with the United States government regarding greater sales of Canadian oil to the United States market will not include the handing over of any degree of control of any of Canada's water resources to the United States or the lessening in any way of this country's sovereignty over our Arctic waters?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I think I can give that assurance, Mr. Speaker.

**CRUDE PETROLEUM—POSITION RESPECTING
EXPORTS TO U.S.**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I am sorry the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is not here today, Mr. Speaker, though his name is on the roster. I trust the Prime Minister will give the House an answer to my question. In the many discussions that both the Prime Minister and the minister himself have pointed out are continuously being held between our officials and those of the United States in regard to the export of crude petroleum, has there been any recent suggestion by the United States officials that there be a cut-back in our exports of crude petroleum to the United States or tariffs placed thereon; and are we working toward an open and free trade policy on crude petroleum?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have the impression that the hon. member is asking a question of such wide import that perhaps it should be answered by way of a general statement on motions. However, if there is a short answer perhaps it might be made available to the House now.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Port-folio): Mr. Speaker, the only short answer is that the question itself was very long. Many aspects of the answer have been previously put before the House. The discussions are in fact covering very many aspects of our relationships, and they are still going forward.

[Mr. Thomas.]

Mr. Woolliams: A further supplementary question. In view of Your Honour's suggestion, which I thought was a good one, would the minister have the minister in charge make a full statement on this subject in view of the fact that the president of the Independent Petroleum Association has raised the question of tariffs on crude petroleum exports from Canada to the United States?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I will bring that suggestion to the attention of the minister.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which I should like to address to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that a United States cabinet committee, headed by Mr. George Shultz, Secretary of Labour, has recommended to the president the removal of all restrictions on imports from Canada into the United States in return for Canada being willing to negotiate a total energy package deal, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the Canadian government at any level has had such a proposal put to it?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that particular proposal having been made to the minister, but the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has, of course, been in discussion with authorities in Washington regarding this question for some time now.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A further supplementary question which the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who has just entered the House, may care to answer. In view of these developments in Washington would the government be prepared to refer this whole matter to the House of Commons Committee on National Resources and Public Works with a view to enabling its members to ascertain what are the known potential resources in Canada, and what our requirements are likely to be for the foreseeable future?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, if I might answer that question, the National Energy Board has, of course, very comprehensive information regarding resources, the totality of those resources and their availability for export. In any application for export the very issue that the National Energy Board has to decide is whether or not the resources in question are surplus to Canada's needs and available for export. From the standpoint of