

projects which have a potential for becoming self-supporting if they are provided with assistance for a further period, projects which provide employees—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Perrault: —with a learning experience giving them new skills—

Mr. Speaker: May we have order, please?

Mr. Perrault: —services that could, given time—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The parliamentary secretary can continue answering but this time I have the floor and what he is saying is not recorded. I suggest to the hon. member for Peace River that when he asks for a general statement he should not be scandalized and the Chair should not be scandalized if the parliamentary secretary replies giving a general statement. I would think the question should have been asked in the terms of whether a statement might be made on motions.

Mr. Baldwin: My intention was to ask whether a statement would be made on motions, which of course would permit hon. members in other parties to reply.

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• (1440)

TRANSPORT

BRUCE PENINSULA-MANITOULIN ISLAND FERRY SERVICE—REQUEST FOR EARLY START ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FACILITIES TO PROVIDE JOBS THIS SUMMER

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the announcement today of an \$8.8 million agreement between the province of Ontario and the federal government for new terminal facilities and a ferry service between the Bruce Peninsula and Manitoulin Island will the minister take action to ensure that construction of these facilities gets under way immediately so that a maximum number of jobs will be provided this coming summer?

An hon. Member: Campaigning!

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I will be very glad to do that, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

SARNIA OLEFINES AND AROMATIC PRODUCTS PROJECT—PUBLICATION OF LETTER FROM PREMIER BOURASSA TO PRIME MINISTER

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

It seems that the Quebec premier wrote him a letter concerning the development of the oil industry and more

Inquiries of the Ministry

specifically the Sarnia Olefines and Aromatic Products project. I should like to know when he will reply to the letter of the Quebec premier, and whether or not he intends to publish the reply in the interest of hon. members.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I always marvel at how hon. members usually have a copy of the correspondence that is sent to me even before I receive it. I shall look at my mail and see whether it has arrived; if such a letter exists, I hope to read it soon. If I do not have it, then perhaps the hon. member can send me a copy of it.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PETROCHEMICAL CENTRE IN SARNIA—STATEMENT OF QUEBEC MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE—POSITION OF GOVERNMENT

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister complains about a lack of communication with the Quebec government. Perhaps the relations between the Quebec government and the opposition are friendlier than with this government.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

The Quebec Minister of Industry and Commerce has expressed serious apprehensions regarding the establishment, at Sarnia, of a world petrochemical centre. Could the Prime Minister say what is the attitude of his government concerning this artificial boundary, the Borden line, which limits Quebec to its own domestic market for the sale of its petrochemical products?

Mr. Speaker: I feel that this question is of a general nature and that it calls for a statement on motions. The hon. member might perhaps agree with me on this point.

Mr. Asselin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Does the Prime Minister intend to make in the near future in the House a statement on such an important matter, in order that we may know what is the government's position on that problem raised yesterday by the Quebec Minister of Industry and Commerce?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will surely examine the letter, if there is one. However, in answer to the hon. member, I simply want to make him understand that the oil policy to which he referred has enabled Quebec to pay less for its fuel than the western provinces which have to buy their oil in western Canada. Well, if this is not a beneficial policy for Quebec—

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me that such a question and the Prime Minister's answer are rather argumentative and I also feel that we should try to proceed a little more quickly.

[English]

There are just about ten minutes left before the end of the question period and we do not seem to be moving very quickly because we have so many supplementary questions and long questions and long answers. Perhaps we