

member is interested. To my knowledge, the hon. member has not taken the minister up on this offer.

Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, the situation at Victoria airport is quite safe with the procedures currently in place. Controllers use the radar system at Vancouver to some extent, and when it cannot be used specific non-radar procedures are applied to ensure safety at the airport. In addition, the department has established a special operating position in the control tower at Victoria which provides an advisory service. Pilots have reported that this service is a marked improvement.

● (2210)

The hon. member raised a question last July about parachutists interfering with general aviation at Victoria. I would like to point out that the incidents in question took place outside the Victoria control zone in U.S. air space, and that in any event, radar would not have been able to detect the parachutists. The record at Victoria with regard to loss of separation has been remarkably good in the recent past. Naturally, we must look to the future.

Victoria has been identified in a long-term radar modernization plan as being a location requiring radar. The details of this plan will be developed in a rational manner, and Victoria will get radar at an appropriate time in the very near future.

ENERGY—OIL—SOURCES OF SUPPLY FOR EASTERN CANADA

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my concern as well arises out of a question asked in May and because of the very nature of events that have taken place in recent months. It centres on the signing of an agreement by the Government of Canada and the government of Mexico regarding the supply of crude oil for the basic needs of Canadians. We have been led to believe for a long period of time that the Canadian government was on the verge of initialling and entering into the final details of contractual arrangements for the supply of 100,000 barrels of crude oil for eastern Canada and eastern Canadian refineries. When we heard the announcement on May 26 or 27, we discovered to our surprise, shock and disappointment, that all the present government had been able to negotiate was some 50,000 barrels a day. This left eastern Canadians with a sense not only of disappointment but of real concern.

My question arose at a point in time when the glut that may exist for the present in the world oil supply market had not arisen. It arose at a point in time when there was growing apprehension about stability in the Middle East and at a point in time when we had come through a winter when most eastern Canadians were vitally concerned, with justification, as to whether or not there would be sufficient oil to supply the refineries, and, through the refineries, the requirements and demands for home heating, electrical generation and the general demand for oil and oil products. The answer given at the time by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) was:

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Madam Speaker, I would like, first of all, to alleviate some of the fears of the hon. gentleman by saying that Canada has not lost, today, 50,000 barrels a day; it has won 50,000 barrels a day.

That is a play on words from an individual who had very little, if any, concern for security of supply for eastern Canadians. Yet that minister is a resident of what might generally be described as eastern Canada. What measures has the government taken? What measures is it prepared to pursue with respect to restoring the supply to 100,000 barrels a day, which is the commitment the government gave to eastern Canadians and to this House? In addition, I ask the parliamentary secretary, the hon. member for Etobicoke North (Mr. MacLaren), to address himself this evening to the question of eastern security. The Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) made a clear statement at the port of Halifax annual dinner a few weeks ago to the effect that he would personally intervene to ensure that the Quebec-maritime natural gas pipeline would be extended, notwithstanding the position of the National Energy Board.

● (2215)

What discussions have taken place as a result of this concern regarding security of energy? What discussions or negotiations have taken place since May 27 in support of the principle of security? What has been done to replace the lost 50,000 barrels a day which we were counting on? A glut may be present today because of the world situation, but the strife over the past two weeks in the Middle East has destroyed the possibility of eastern Canada receiving its required share on the world market.

We cannot afford to buy on the spot market, although I suspect we are doing that to a large degree. What is being done about that? What plans are in place? What can one tell eastern Canadians other than that there is enough oil to last us until late February or early March? What happens after that, because it is very cold in Atlantic Canada and northern Quebec in late March, April, and indeed if the truth be known, through to the middle of May. What is being done to assure Atlantic Canadians that there will be enough oil for home heating, electrical generation and the ships that come in and out of our ports after the end of February?

In addition, will the parliamentary secretary address the vital question of the degree to which gas will be supplied to replace oil in accordance with the statement by the Minister of Finance so that we might conserve and, indeed, replace the lost 50,000 barrels with this alternate source of energy?

Mr. Roy MacLaren (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) and other members of the government have noted on a number of occasions, the agreement signed in Ottawa with Mexico on May 27 guarantees delivery of 50,000 barrels a day of Mexican oil to Canada, starting late this month.

I am pleased to say that arrangements have been completed for these deliveries. We can expect that from an initial 20,000 barrels a day they will rise to the full 50,000 barrels a day by