

Furthermore, would he ask the Minister of Veterans Affairs to write to the families of the 3,000 Canadians who are buried there, expressing his regret at the desecration and telling them that an apology has been received from the French government?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I will certainly take that under advisement. I am not sure that we know all the families involved, but certainly some action of that kind might be called for and I will pass the suggestion along to my colleague. Perhaps the hon. member could furnish me with the information from those newspapers in which I gather there have been unfavourable comments.

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ENERGY

PROVISION OF EMERGENCY RESERVES OF OIL

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that in September of 1974, Canada, along with 11 other countries, agreed to a scheme for stockpiling oil to provide emergency reserves sufficient for 90 days—an action that has not been taken, unfortunately, by Canada—will the minister indicate why this emergency oil base has not been established? Also, since the Atlantic provinces, and Nova Scotia in particular, remain especially vulnerable to energy losses—we have no natural gas to offset the need for liquid petroleum distillates, and no immediate oil for pumping—will the minister consider establishing an emergency reserve oil base in Atlantic Canada covering our needs for at least 90 days?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, first, I would like to stress to the hon. member again that in Canada we have one market and one price for oil, and that we will not allow a situation to develop where Atlantic Canada would be put at a disadvantage both in terms of price and in terms of supply. So far as the specific question raised by the hon. member is concerned, I will examine the situation and I shall be pleased to report to him later.

Mr. Crouse: I have one brief supplementary, Madam Speaker. Since Canada to date has taken no special steps to meet the requirements of the 1974 agreement—I stress the date of the agreement which Canada signed in 1974—what steps is the minister taking to ensure that Atlantic Canada will have an adequate reserve supply of crude oil?

● (1450)

Since, admittedly, we have a shortfall of 50,000 barrels of oil in our agreement with Mexico, I would like to ask the minister with what countries he is now negotiating in order to offset that shortfall. While he is at it, will he tell us the price

that he and his government agreed to pay Mexico for those 50,000 barrels of oil?

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, I would have to ask the hon. member whether he is stating that Canada does not have a 90-day supply at the present time. If he says that—he does not say that—then I would challenge him on it. I would argue with him that if he checks the past, he may find that indeed Canada just now may have a 90-day supply. It is important that the whole country should have adequate supplies to meet its needs. This situation is being monitored regularly by my department and is on the face of it the subject of constant monitoring.

As far as the agreement with Mexico is concerned, again I should like to stress that Canada increased its supply by 50,000 barrels per day, thanks to that agreement. The hon. member may regret that it has not gone to 100,000 barrels per day, but it would have been easier if his government had moved when this matter was available for negotiation at the time.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lalonde: As far as the price of that oil is concerned, it is a matter that has to be negotiated in terms of the prices as the purchases are made on an ongoing basis. There is no specific price, like in agreements with other countries, between companies or even from state to state. These agreements are all subject to renegotiation in terms of prices.

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HEALTH AND WELFARE

UNACCEPTABLE RISKS OF CERTAIN DRUGS—EXERCISING OF CANADIAN JUDGMENT

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of recent press reports concerning the use of the powerful hormonal drug, Depo-provera, for uses such as contraception in provincial institutions for the mentally retarded and other users, other than that which the Federal Bureau of Drugs allows the manufacturer of the drug to claim for it, can the minister tell the House whether she intends any strengthening of the ability of the federal department of health to achieve compliance with its own judgments about unacceptable risk when it comes to these particular kinds of drugs?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, I regret to say that I am not aware of the case referred to by the hon. member. If he could give me more information after the question period, I will look into it and report as soon as possible.

Mr. Blaikie: Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is in a more general vein. In the absence of the minister being aware of this particular drug, could she tell us whether or not she intends any changes or any federal initiatives, either by her department or perhaps by the Minister of Justice and the Department of Justice, in the very important and long neglect-