

ENERGY

VENICE SUMMIT—COMMITMENTS ON INCREASED USE OF
COAL—ACID RAIN

Mr. Doug Frith (Sudbury): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Summit conference in Venice during last weekend resulted in a commitment by the participating countries to increase their coal production, using coal as an energy resource in order to reduce their energy consumption of oil.

What commitments were made by the participating countries which will ensure that the increased use of coal will not aggravate the acid rain problem?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, at the Summit in Venice all heads of states recognized the importance of increasing very substantially the production of coal over the next decade if we are to meet the needs of the industrialized world.

● (1500)

The Prime Minister and the Canadian delegation insisted very strongly upon the necessity of making sure that the environmental concerns be respected and that all necessary steps be taken to protect the environment. There was a special reference to this subject included in the final communiqué of the conference.

I am also happy to report that my colleague, the Minister of the Environment, has been in extensive consultations with his American counterpart over the past few weeks on the whole issue of acid rain. If the hon. member wishes to ask the minister about his discussions, I am sure he would be very happy to inform the House of developments in this regard.

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BANKRUPTCIES

MARITIME AGENCIES LTD., VANCOUVER—DEBTS OWED BY
GOVERNMENT

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Madam Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Supply and Services. It relates to a question and a motion under Standing Order 43 put last week by my colleague, the hon. member for Capilano.

Can the minister report to the House, in view of his consultation with his colleagues, on the matter of the bankruptcy of Maritime Agencies Limited, Vancouver, which was suffering from bad debts that it was unable to collect from the government with regard to shipments of Canadian wheat to Bangladesh?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): Madam Speaker, I am not in a position at this time to furnish any further information relating to MAL. I would be pleased to discuss the matter with the hon. gentleman.

I have been in touch with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Justice to hasten a resolu-

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tion of this most disturbing difficulty. I recognize, as does the hon. gentleman, that we are dealing here with food aid that is much needed by Bangladesh. I hope the problem will be solved within the very near future.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENCE

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROVISIONS OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT—
REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE

On the order: Government Notice of Motions

June 20, 1980—The President of the Privy Council:

That the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence be empowered to examine the implementation of the provisions of the three baskets of the Helsinki Final Act by Canada and other participating states and consider Canada's participation in the Madrid follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) and report to the House; and

That the committee be empowered for this purpose to retain the services of advisers to assist in its work and that it also be empowered to retain such professional, clerical and stenographic help as may be required and that it also be empowered to advertise invitations to the public to submit opinions on the aforementioned matter.

Madam Speaker: Pursuant to Standing Order 21(2), this notice of motion is transferred to and ordered for consideration under government orders at the next sitting of the House.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. D. M. Collette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 54, 85, 98, 691, 769, 792, 829, 835, 838, 899, 948, 950, 951, 956, 989, 1,018 and 1,056.

I ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

HEALTH—ONTARIO COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS—
INTERIM REPORT ON VITAMINS

Question No. 54—**Mr. Cossitt:**

Is the Department of National Health and Welfare aware of an interim report released on Tuesday, November 6, 1979, by the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons on the subject of the consumption of vitamins and, if so (a) what are the conclusions of the department in regard to the value or otherwise of each vitamin to the human body (b) specifically, has the department any evidence to support the theory that (i) vitamin C is effective against the common cold (ii) vitamin E is useful in heart disease treatment (iii) various vitamins in the B group are helpful in certain types of mental illness, etc.?