

were represented. The conference concluded with an agreed joint statement by all 27 participants in which all participants acknowledged that this had been a useful exercise in terms of broadening their understanding of international questions, and they committed themselves to continuing the dialogue.

Mr. Gillies: It was a failure.

Mr. MacEachen: In my estimation the conference achieved substantial results in very important fields, although there were disappointments on both sides. In my view the conference had a very positive result, and that analysis is shared by other leaders on both sides of the conference.

Mr. Gillies: Have you read the reports about 21 items of disagreement?

Mr. Brewin: I wonder if the minister could make a statement to the House, which could be commented on, as to the points on which there was success and as to the points on which there was no success, because this is a matter about which all the people of Canada are concerned and about which they should be interested. We would like the fullest possible explanation from the minister.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I intended to tell the hon. member, in direct response to his question, that I have under consideration making a lengthier statement to the House on this question so that hon. members can comment, and in this way I might be able to answer in more detail those questions which are raised. I did use this occasion to make a brief reply, if only to counter what I consider to be highly irresponsible interjections by the hon. member for Don Valley.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION—
REASON FOR DISAGREEMENT

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister, and it relates to the disappointments to which the minister himself referred in connection with the North-South Conference. Inasmuch as the final communique listed 20 points of agreement but 21 points of disagreement, which led to the appropriate interjection of the hon. member for Don Valley, were these disagreements brought about by the intransigence of the oil producing nations to enter into an energy dialogue with industrial countries so that the price of oil over the next few years could be stabilized?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member referred to items at the conference upon which there was agreement and upon which there was disagreement. That, of course, reveals that there are still differences of opinion between the two groups on quite a number of issues, but there has been agreement on some very substantial issues, issues upon which the position, for example, of the industrialized countries has moved rather dramatically in the last three months.

Oral Questions

The disappointment on the side of the industrialized countries, referred to as the group of eight, was basically at the failure of the conference to agree that there ought to be a continuing dialogue on the question of energy. The hon. member asks me to identify the cause of that failure. Certainly the total group of 19 took that position—the OPEC oil producing countries and non-oil producing, developing countries—and even to the present time some of the aspects of the dynamics of the negotiations are still obscure to me, even though I was there, but I do believe that the leadership against that dialogue seemed to come from a certain element of the OPEC countries. That is the answer I would like to give.

CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION—
POSSIBILITY AID OFFER REVIEWED IN VIEW OF DISAGREEMENT

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, following the disappointing conclusion of the conference last week the Secretary of State for External Affairs told the press that Canada's offer which was made at the North-South Conference may have to be reviewed. Can the minister state whether it is the policy of the government to review the aid offer which was made at the North-South Conference upward or downward?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I noticed a press report which attributed such a statement to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It was a press report which obviously came prior to the conclusion of the conference. It was open to the industrialized countries to withdraw the rather substantial commitments they made in the early stages of the conference, in the face of the refusal of the developing countries to agree to a continuing energy dialogue. However, after careful consideration by all members of the group of eight it was decided that in the interest of a positive conclusion and in the interest of continuing this very important dialogue, we would live up to all the commitments we had made, including the special action program of \$1 billion which had been put on the table by the eight countries as a way of ameliorating the condition of the developing countries. To my knowledge there is no intention on the part of the government of Canada or any other government to withdraw from positions which they have taken at the conference itself.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

CO-OPERATION OF PROVINCES IN CONTROLLING
PORNOGRAPHY

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): A supplementary question for the Minister of Justice. Can the minister inform the House whether he is receiving full co-operation from all provincial Attorneys General in his efforts to control pornography and is it his intention to continue discussions with provincial representatives?