

Oral Questions

Canadian oil to foreign markets at a lower price than the price Canadians have to pay for it.

We are looking at all these problems. Basically, if there is shut-in oil it is because there has been a great reduction in the demands in Canada for oil. Some of the oil coming into the East is subject to contracts that we have to respect. I do not think that the Hon. Member would ask me not to respect the contracts we have with some foreign nations.

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DISARMAMENT**GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS—PROPOSAL TO REDUCE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS**

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. A few weeks ago the Prime Minister suggested that alternative proposals were necessary in order to break the deadlock in nuclear disarmament negotiations taking place in Geneva. George F. Kennan, a former ambassador of the United States to the Soviet Union, made one such proposal. He suggested that each of the nuclear powers accept an immediate reduction of some 50 per cent of nuclear warheads.

I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he agrees with the suggestion made by Mr. Kennan and, if so, when he meets with President Reagan in the near future would he present this constructive suggestion to him for his consideration and acceptance.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I have not seen the Kennan proposal but I would imagine it has been brought to the attention of the President of the United States. Certainly if it is a good proposal I imagine it will become part of the panoply of negotiating possibilities in which the two great powers are involved.

As far as the earlier part of the question is concerned, the Hon. Member said that I suggested we should look at alternatives. I would point out to him that very recently, following the visit of Vice-President Bush to Canada, to European capitals and NATO countries, there has been a change in the U.S. policy in the intermediate-range nuclear force. The United States has departed from the zero option and has proposed a compromise which would lead to a reduction of the number of SS-20s which the Soviet Union is deploying against western Europe. It seems to me that is a step in the right direction. It is certainly a different negotiating posture than the zero option. I believe it corresponds to the will expressed by many NATO members. I would hope that the U.S.S.R. would indicate a positive response to that.

I would also hope that the pressure of many of the peace groups in Canada and elsewhere would turn at least in part to the Soviet Union so that they would show more flexibility.

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, to keep this discussion at a serious level, I should like to say something to the Prime

Minister on that point because I read what he said in the House yesterday.

For a long time my Party has made it clear that it has been opposed to the deployment of the SS-20 by the Soviet Union. I was speaking in Toronto yesterday and made that very clear. My external affairs critic has made it very clear on television and in a Committee of this House. I point that out to clarify the record so that the Prime Minister understands.

This is a two-way street, and we understand it. The two great powers, the Soviet Union and the United States, have obligations in this immensely important area.

The Prime Minister has indicated that there has been some shift on the part of the United States, and that is true. There has been another and related area of concern as the Prime Minister knows, about what nuclear weapons are to be included. The former head of arms negotiations for President Carter has made a suggestion which meshes with the shift made by President Reagan that, in future talks, the nuclear capacity of France—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member should come to his question.

Mr. Broadbent: I shall come right to the question, Madam Speaker.

SIZE OF INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN NUCLEAR FORCES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Considering that it has been suggested that the nuclear strength and capacity in terms of weaponry of both the United Kingdom and France be included in the balancing of the nuclear totals in Europe, will the Prime Minister agree with this? If he agrees that their strength should be taken into account and added to the western equation, if you like, will he pass that suggestion on to the President of the United States, with his support?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member asks several questions. He began by making one point about both great powers. I am happy that the NDP, perhaps having listened to my enjoiners to them, decided to protest last night in Toronto against the SS-20s. It is about time they did that.

Insofar as the French force de frappe and the British nuclear force are concerned, I would point out to the Hon. Member that the suggestion made by someone unnamed by the Hon. Member—

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Warnke.

Mr. Trudeau: If it was Warnke, that suggestion is probably addressed to the President of the United States. The Leader of the New Democratic Party will know that the answer to that suggestion has already been given by the President of France and by the Prime Minister of Great Britain.

The Hon. Member asked me to talk to the President of the United States. I would answer that it is not the President of the United States who controls the French force de frappe. It