

Oral Questions

ment was taking with respect to the transfer of excess profits by the multinational oil companies outside the country. At the time he assured me that the department would have that matter very much in mind.

This past week we have had reports that two of the multinational oil companies have transferred multimillions of dollars out of this country at the same time as raising oil prices. I wonder whether the minister could advise this House what steps he is taking to prevent this intolerable situation.

Hon. Walter Baker (President of Privy Council and Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, it is improper to discuss on the floor of the House of Commons specific matters in relation to income tax and the Income Tax Act. I am sure the hon. member understands that. I wish to reassure him that the Department of National Revenue is taking its responsibilities under the appropriate statutes with respect to the specific matters he has raised.

TAXING INCREASE IN REVENUES OF OIL MULTINATIONALS

Mr. Ed Lumley (Stormont-Dundas): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. Since it was the Prime Minister who first raised this subject in the House when he said he was going to discuss an excess profits tax with the multinational oil companies, I ask the Prime Minister this: is he going to pursue this aspect of taxing the increase in revenues rather than the increase in profits as a result of the oil price increases which we expect to experience in the next few weeks?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we are now actively discussing the mechanism that will be used to ensure that virtually 100 per cent of the revenues that would go to the companies as a result of increases in energy prices will, in fact, be regained by the Government of Canada for the specific application by the Government of Canada for national energy purposes.

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ENERGY

OIL SUPPLIES FOR MARITIMES THIS WINTER

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the non-answer by the Prime Minister to our leader with respect to supply to the Atlantic area, in view of the oil supply cut off by Iran, and in view of the announcement by the Prime Minister that there are no plans for a pipeline to the maritimes, could the minister responsible indicate to the House what he intends to do in view of the cries by the Premier of Nova Scotia in this morning's newspapers for a guaranteed supply for the citizens of the maritime provinces?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. member I

[Mr. Lumley.]

simply want to say that I am, in fact, taking a number of initiatives to ensure that we do get through this winter. The fact is that the federal government is proceeding with a number of initiatives, in consultation with industry, for obtaining alternative sources of supply. These consultations are actively going on with the companies involved.

Also, I am taking some initiatives with respect to conservation practices that might be followed, and leadership that might be given at all levels of government. Today I am writing to the provincial premiers asking them to consider a number of conservation initiatives that might be taken and the leadership that might be given by all levels of government. It is a matter that I want to discuss at the first ministers' meeting. It is a matter that will assist us in getting through this winter. It is a manageable situation provided that we do not have any untoward or unforeseen interruptions of rather large proportions. We are attempting to come to terms with this particular problem.

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AIR TRANSPORT

GOVERNMENT POSITION RESPECTING DISPOSITION OF NORDAIR

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I apologize for not having given him notice. Being aware of his concern for the people in Atlantic Canada who use air services for travel, would he indicate to the House whether or not the government has now taken a position with respect to the disposition of Nordair?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that question is now before cabinet. We are considering the transportation concerns of the citizens of Atlantic Canada, Quebec and Ontario.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED AIRLIFT OF FOOD FOR KAMPUCHEA

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland): My question is for the Prime Minister. Yesterday, the Minister of Employment and Immigration stated that there was great suffering by the people of Kampuchea. Having returned from the United Nations just recently—and I am sure the Prime Minister is aware of this—we know that in the last ten years as many as two million citizens there have died from famine. The Minister of Employment and Immigration talked about a political response—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the hon. member put a question.

Mr. Parent: Mr. Speaker, I ask the Prime Minister this: would he try a practical approach and suggest that an airlift of