

*Oral Questions***ENERGY**

OIL AND NATURAL GAS EXPORTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Trudeau: I understand the leader of the Tory party is suggesting one day.

Mr. Clark: That is the rule. What are you saying? Give us a commitment.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the Right Hon. Prime Minister as well as any other member who is being questioned in the House cannot answer two or three persons at the same time. I ask that we restrict ourselves to allowing whoever has the floor to answer one question from one questioner.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, the leader of the Tory party is constantly interrupting me when I try to answer one of his own backbenchers. I wish he would show a little more respect for his own people.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: However, since he insists on getting in on this debate, I do not understand why he keeps shouting "one day". I have indicated that when the resolution comes out of committee, it will be in front of this House for an indeterminate period of time and there will be television and all the coverage that the Leader of the Opposition would like to get.

I would also indicate that the reason we took this route of putting it into committee is that we are certain if we had not, that if we had just gone the resolution route and said it is one resolution, one stage and nothing else, the Leader of the Opposition would have been screaming his head off.

Mr. Clark: That is not what the secret memo says.

Mr. Trudeau: He would have said, how can we possibly study this, make amendments and hear witnesses because we have been gagged by the government and it is just making it in one stage. Therefore, we made it in three stages.

Mr. Clark: Closure, closure and closure.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, I am afraid the hon. member will have to talk to his leader if he wants answers to his questions. He will have to ask his leader to shut up.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Beatty: Madam Speaker, I suspect that if I want an answer from the Prime Minister, I will have to talk to the Leader of the NDP.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Beatty: It is a straightforward question to the Prime Minister which he can answer with a yes or no. Is the Prime Minister prepared to give his support for the televising of the committee proceeding?

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, the committee can make its own decisions in that regard.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the minister of energy my question will be to the Prime Minister.

An hon. Member: We don't have one.

Mr. Waddell: On December 6, 1979, the minister of energy had this to say in the House:

The worst thing we could do is to export gas for a fast buck or in order to support a faltering dollar, because then it will mean that down the line we will have to supply our Canadian needs with more expensive and more polluting resources, such as coal for instance. We have to be very cautious about relying upon illusory, short-term gains.

The minister quietly approved in cabinet last week the export of synthetic natural gas, made from Alberta oil, from the government's Petrosar plant in Sarnia. Enough gas and oil to heat 100,000 Canadians homes for five years has been exported. My question to the Prime Minister is this. What is it to be? Is it to be the energy minister's principles, as set out in that code about not selling off our resources for short-term gain; or is it to be his government's action of selling them out? What is the policy of the government?

Mr. Roy MacLaren (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): As the hon. member must be fully aware, Madam Speaker, the export of natural gas from Canada is a matter which is monitored by the National Energy Board. The procedures which the hon. member has questioned have been approved by the National Energy Board and meet the requirement tests of that board.

Mr. Waddell: That is no answer at all, Madam Speaker. I will put my supplementary question to the Prime Minister and ask him to answer it. In July his government approved the pre-build of the pipeline to sell out Alberta gas to California and other markets, and last week, a few days ago, there was an agreement to sell natural gas to American utilities in New York. The *Times* says "14 utilities in the east to get Canadian gas". Finally, the National Energy Board has approved the export of liquid natural gas from Gaz Métropolitain to New Hampshire.

The Prime Minister told my leader that he is not prepared to do anything on ownership of the foreign controlled oil industry. In light of this evidence of sellout of gas and oil, is he prepared to continue a policy of selling out Canadian resources?

● (1450)

Mr. MacLaren: Madam Speaker, the hon. member should be aware that under the procedures of the National Energy Board a determination is made whether there are supplies surplus to Canadian needs. Those prudent tests adequately ensure Canadians that natural gas reserves are sufficient to justify exports. That policy is being applied in the various cases which the hon. member opposite has cited.