

*Oral Questions*

States, to respond to these problems. Those ideas are not sufficiently far advanced that I would outline them in detail to the hon. member. I believe he has some idea what I may do later this year.

**Mr. McMillan:** Madam Speaker, my supplementary is also directed to the Minister of the Environment. Following the presidential election, the Secretary of State for External Affairs held a news conference at which he said that the Government of Canada does not contemplate any problems with regard to the Canada-U.S. acid rain agreement. He said that "the House of Representatives is still dominated by the Democrats and . . . initiatives have to receive congressional approval as well as approval from the President". Does the Minister of the Environment agree with the statement of his colleague, despite the fact that in the United States international agreements require the approval of the President and two thirds of the Senate, not the approval of the House of Representatives, as his colleague implied?

**Mr. Roberts:** Madam Speaker, I am sure the hon. member knows that I very rarely disagree with my colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Roberts:** I repeat to the hon. member what I said earlier, that we are confident that the facts of the situation, which indicate that this is an extremely serious problem for both societies—serious in terms of human health and in terms of economic impact—will lead the next United States administration to follow the path which has been charted by the present administration of moving as quickly as possible to international accord to help us deal with this important, common and equally damaging problem to both societies.

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**ENERGY****POSSIBLE OIL IMPORTATIONS FROM SAUDI ARABIA—INQUIRY AS TO CONDITIONS OF SALE**

**Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. It relates to the answer just given a few moments ago by the hon. member for Etobicoke North and to the question of the sale of 100,000 barrels of oil per day under certain conditions as indicated by Sheik Yamani to the Prime Minister. That sale would take place on a state to state basis. Would the Deputy Prime Minister tell the House whether or not the government is aware of what those conditions indicated by Sheik Yamani are, and whether or not they include the demand that Canada formally recognize the PLO?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, all that I know comes from the transcript of the remarks which the Prime Minister made at his press conference. As I understand it, the question came up in the course of conversation, in which Sheik Yamani

indicated that if Canada were interested in entering into negotiations with the state oil company, then that view ought to be communicated to the government of Saudi Arabia, and the normal follow-up would be negotiations between Petro-Canada and Petromin. The Prime Minister was very clear in pointing out at his press conference that the discussion was very general, involving no consideration of price or any other items. It is obvious to me that no conditions were discussed and certainly not the condition mentioned by the hon. member with respect to a political act like the recognition of any body.

**Mr. Lawrence:** Madam Speaker, before any such transaction is agreed to by the government or by any agency of the government, especially if any political conditions are attached to any such sale, would the government undertake that the details of such a transaction will be presented to this House for debate and approval prior to the transaction being consummated?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Madam Speaker, I can certainly assure the hon. member that no such political conditions would ever be contemplated. We would not accept any such condition with respect to a deal of any kind that is very much up in the air at the moment. I can tell the hon. member that information with respect to any future developments will be made available to the House.

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[Translation]

**AIR TRANSPORT****REQUEST FOR REPORT ON PROPOSED SALE OF NORDAIR**

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. A few months ago, I tried to obtain some information about Nordair's future. Since then, I understand that the minister has had several consultations and that he is aware of the interest shown by several groups from Quebec and elsewhere. Therefore, I imagine that today, after all that time, he is in a position to tell us what progress has been made in this regard?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** No, Madam Speaker, but I can tell you that I am supposed to meet with the Regionair group within two weeks.

**Mr. La Salle:** I have a supplementary, Madam Speaker. In order to reassure many Quebecers, would the minister be in a position at least to say whether he has decided in principle that the majority of shares could be held by Quebec interests?

**Mr. Pepin:** This is, of course, one of the most important aspects of the problem. It must also be kept in mind that when the Regionair group came to see me to talk about the Nordair takeover, they kept insisting that it is not Quebecair which was taking over Nordair, but rather the consortium known as Regionair. So a whole line of argument follows from that