

*Oral Questions**[English]*

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister is an intelligent man. It is about time he woke up and realized that he occupies a front bench seat as a Minister of the Crown and has to take his responsibilities. Talking about the previous Government will not solve Canada's energy problems.

## POSSIBILITY OF OTHER BIDS FOR DOME

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the Minister's hands-off policy, in view of the fact that to this time, as far as we in this House know, no government initiative whatsoever, direct or indirect, has been taken to examine any other potential bids, and in view of the fact that there is a prospect of failure with regard to the bid now facing us, will the Minister undertake to instruct the President of Investment Canada, despite the fact that it is not within his mandate, to be in touch with those other Canadian oriented companies which are interested in making bids on Dome?

*[Translation]*

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that if I dared to act along that line the Liberal Party would promptly accuse me of undue interference.

**Mr. Malépart:** It is in the interest of consumers.

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*[English]*

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

## IRRADIATION OF FOOD—COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I will direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare. For some time Health and Welfare Canada has been considering changing the classification of irradiated food from an additive to a process.

Since the all-Party Committee on Consumer and Corporate Affairs tabled its report today recommending that food treated with ionizing energy continue to be classified as an additive to ensure that proper labeling and testing occur, will the Minister give the House and Canadian consumers his assurance that his Department will follow these recommendations?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the committee also requested that the Government make a formal response within a 120-day period. It is, of course, our intention to do that. I would like to leave the details of that response until Cabinet has had time to consider it.

As the issue of labeling affects my Department we will, of course, continue with the practice of ensuring that foods so treated are labeled.

## IMPORTATION OF IRRADIATED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Since his Department is already responsible for the labeling of irradiated foods, and since the Science Council report indicates that irradiation may be used by more Third World countries for their exports of some fruits and vegetables aimed at North America, will the Minister assure Canadians that as those foods are irradiated they will be labeled before entrance into this country?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, under the Hazardous Products Act the Department requires that foods be labeled to indicate additives. It is the position of the Government now that irradiation constitutes a sort of additive and would have to be so identified.

## IRRADIATED POTATO PLAN—INVOLVEMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA LIMITED

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and is also with regard to irradiation. He will no doubt be aware that Atomic Energy of Canada Limited currently has in place a plan to test-market Canadian irradiated potatoes in Hamilton.

Given the concerns expressed today by the all-Party committee and the fact that the Conservative Chairman herself said that she would not eat irradiated potatoes, will the Minister order Atomic Energy of Canada Limited to put a hold on any tests of any potatoes in Hamilton or anywhere else in Canada until it gets a go-ahead from the Government?

*[Translation]*

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, this has already been done at least three weeks ago.

● (1440)

*[English]*

## MINISTER'S ACTION

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Today my office spoke to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. They are looking at the December potato crop, to move ahead with irradiation at the A & P Store in Hamilton. That is the information from AECL today, just before Question Period.

Will the Minister issue a directive to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited that Hamilton will not be used as a test point for irradiation zapping, and will he further direct AECL to ensure that no test takes place until it gets the go-ahead from the Government?