

[English]

Alexandre, spelled the French way, but I am sure the origins are the same. The hon. member has sometimes indicated that I am not a very good House of Commons man. He might be prepared to concede we are a good House of Commons couple, having planned this thing in such a way that it would not interrupt parliamentary proceedings.

● (1450)

[Translation]

In reply to the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, I would say that it would, in fact, be desirable for all the provinces to agree on the same formula, that there might be as little disparity as possible in the time chosen; however, the federal government is unable to impose it upon them. I willingly suggest, however, following the hon. member's question, that if the provinces wish to consult each other in this regard, the federal-provincial conference to be held within a few weeks would offer them an ideal occasion of doing so.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

FERTILIZER—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PRICE AND GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture may I direct this question to the Prime Minister. It is based on the paper tabled today on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture dealing with the Canadian fertilizer situation. It says, in effect, that the price that Canadian farmers will be expected to pay will be higher than last year but less than the price in the United States. Since farmers are businessmen and are certainly entitled to more specific information than this, will the Prime Minister encourage the Minister of Agriculture to make a statement in the House on motions within the next few days on the price of fertilizer and on what government policy may be if price increases prove to be more than reasonable?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would be very happy to convey the suggestion of the hon. member to the Minister of Agriculture, who is presently in Charlottetown meeting with members of the provincial cabinet.

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ENERGY

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO UNITED STATES PROPOSALS FOR REDUCTION OF PETROLEUM PRODUCT EXPORTS

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has the government been advised by the United States government of a specific formula for the reduction of U.S. petroleum exports? If so, has it made any response to the

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United States government proposals, particularly in light of the British Columbia situation?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the committee this morning, the United States administration through Mr. Simon's office has indicated the proposed intention to put export controls on petroleum products on the basis of historic use in 1972. They have asked users, including Canadian users who take the products by way of export, to express their reactions to this proposal, and we as a government would expect to be responding in due course.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

Mr. Cullen: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry to interrupt the question period but following upon the order made earlier this day that certain questions are to be put at five o'clock may I say I have not had a chance to contact committee members and I should like to inform them that the national resources committee will be holding its meeting this afternoon at 3.30.

TAR SANDS OIL—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF LETTER TO SYNCRUDE FROM GOVERNMENT ON PRICING POLICY TO BE APPLIED TO PRODUCT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who said before the recess that he had no objection to tabling in the House the letter from the government of Canada to the Syncrude company or to its principals relating to future pricing policies. Is the minister now prepared to table that letter?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would be prepared to table it. I apologize to the hon. gentleman; I have not brought it with me today, but I will see whether the translation has been made and I will be glad to lay it on the table either tomorrow or Monday.

POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME—REQUEST THAT MINISTER URGE PROVINCES TO AGREE ON STAND

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the confusion across the country concerning use of daylight saving time to conserve energy, and in view of the further confusion of some provinces accepting this measure and others rejecting it, would the minister make a statement urging the provinces to stay together so that Canadians will not be subjected to communication and transportation scheduling difficulties across the land?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman will recall, we have expressed the view, which I think is also held by Ontario Hydro, that in terms of home heating oil daylight saving time is not an energy conserving measure.