

Oral Questions

organization to come to Canada and participate in a conference of that kind?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is easy to answer how the government can even be considering it. The reason is that Mr. Grossman of the Ontario government stuck his head out and invited this conference to come to Canada in the first place.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I think if the Prime Minister looks back at the record, he will find that his statement about what went on is not quite accurate. May I ask this question: Even if the situation was as the Prime Minister suggests, is the government now acting in accordance with initiatives and views of provincial governments and not basing its actions on what it thinks the government of Canada ought to do?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand. On the one hand, hon. members talk about co-operative federalism but, on the other, hon. members are accusing us of not co-operating with a province which has extended an invitation.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

* * *

STATUS OF WOMEN

ALLEGED PATRONAGE IN APPOINTMENT OF TWO
SASKATCHEWAN LIBERALS TO COUNCIL—MINISTER'S
POSITION

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare who is responsible for the status of women. How is the independence and credibility of the Council on the Status of Women to be assured by the government's appointing two Liberal workers in Saskatchewan who are to replace a native person and the former head of the National Council of Women. Does the minister not think that this is patronage in the extreme?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the nominations I made to the Council on the Status of Women were based on the qualifications of the persons concerned. I did not then take any political factor into consideration. However, I must point out that the Prince Edward Island representative is an Indian woman who works very actively for the rights of Indians and especially Indian women in Canada. So the representation of Indians within the Council on the Status of Women was not diminished.

[Mr. Hees.]

[English]

ENERGY

SALE OF CANDU REACTORS BY ITALIAN COMPANY UNDER
LICENCE—GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF SALES AND
SAFEGUARDS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I seek more information from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources about the government's nuclear policy? Yesterday he told me that any deal under which an Italian firm would be licensed by Canada to sell CANDU's would be subject to a veto power over where CANDU's can be sold under this licensing arrangement. Perhaps the minister might like to expand on yesterday's answer when he said "Yes, Sir," to my question about the government's policy.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, with respect to safeguards, the answer is, as indicated yesterday, that the government of Canada would continue to insist that Canadian safeguards standards apply to any sale by Italy of CANDU reactors to third party countries, or, indeed, to any equipment which would be involved with the CANDU reactor.

I am advised by Atomic Energy of Canada that the transaction they will be forwarding shortly to the government for the government's approval provided the Italian company with an exclusive licence to the Italian market and a non-exclusive licence for outside of Italy, subject to a time delay ranging from six to eight years from the commencement of the first CANDU sales. In commercial terms, the Italian firm would be at liberty to sell outside its own market without the consent of the Canadian government. The terms would be fully subject to safeguards and, of course, the proposal which has been put forward to the government must be approved, but we have not yet received it.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I hope the Italian company will have more luck than the opposition in finding out what the Canadian safeguards are to be. As Canada is not reserving its right to a veto power, as the minister indicated yesterday, can the minister say how Canada proposes to enforce these safeguards with the Italian company? What mechanism will be set up to enforce the Canadian level of safeguards on this Italian company—whatever those safeguards may be—particularly as Italy has not ratified the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Mr. Trudeau: It has.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, if I may correct the hon. member's last statement, I am advised that Italy has ratified the non-proliferation treaty. If I may deal with Canadian safeguards standards, I take it that the Italians have been able to understand them, even though the hon. gentleman has not. They seem to have had no difficulty in deciding in this regard. Of course, the safeguards would be assured by international agreement and the Italian reactors and, indeed, any other subsequent reactors sold, would be subject to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency.