

*Oral Questions*

da's international boundary? The United States Government is now offering to sell Canadian territory which is south of the 54-40 line. Will the Prime Minister call the President of the United States and, at the very least, give him a geography lesson?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that I am not in a position to confirm the facts referred to by the Hon. Member. I missed the previous exchange, but I will take his question as notice.

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● (1140)

**INDUSTRY****PETROCHEMICAL TASK FORCE REPORT—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Hon. Bud Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional and Industrial Expansion. The petrochemical task force report was presented in the latter part of February. Since that time I know that officials and Ministers have been working on its content. I wonder if the Minister is in a position to indicate when he anticipates a public response to the recommendations made in that particular report?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows, because he has made substantial representations prior to the task force report and subsequently, that there is a group of officials from various Departments working on recommendations to my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and myself, with respect to the proposed response of the federal Government.

Second, as I responded the other day to the Hon. Member for Vancouver Centre, my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, has had discussions with his counterparts in the producing provinces with respect to the major recommendation in that task force report, the reduction of the natural gas price. If I am not mistaken, I believe that about two weeks ago the producing provinces and the Minister made an announcement in that regard.

Third, I have also had discussions with my counterparts in two of the other producing provinces on the industrial side, to see if we could accelerate a response from the provinces and ourselves with respect to the report.

**SARNIA INDUSTRY**

**Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. The Minister has taken a year to look at the auto task force report. He has taken three months to look at the petrochemical report. There are 200,000 jobs on the line, direct and indirect. When is the Minister going to come up with an answer for the petrochemical industry in the city of Sarnia with respect to

allowing the 15 per cent discount, or, preferably, the Gulf gate price?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, as I said in response to a question put by the Hon. Member yesterday—I realize he works very hard and he has not had a chance to read everything we have put out—we have already responded twice to the auto task force report. Perhaps, more important than responding to the report, Mr. Speaker, we have taken action, and that is one of the reasons why I believe the federal Government has played a very prominent role in the substantial increase in employment in the auto industry during the past year.

With respect to the petrochemical task force report, the Hon. Member should know that pricing is the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and the producing provinces. I am sure I do not have to remind Hon. Members opposite about the discussions which took place with respect to pricing policy in the last couple of years.

**FEEDSTOCK PRICE OF NATURAL GAS**

**Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister passes the buck again. It is his responsibility to create jobs in industry. If the feedstock price of natural gas is brought down, it will create more jobs and more export of finished products. Will the Minister give us his commitment that within one month he will have an answer that the Government is either going to implement this report or it is going to do what it did with the auto task force report?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, if we are as successful with the implementation of the petrochemical task force report as we were with the auto task force report, we are going to have another additional increase of jobs across the country. I wish I had the power to decide pricing across the country, and I am surprised at the Conservative Party. I look back on the negotiations which the former Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources held with producing provinces and I know the position the Conservative Party took with respect to pricing. I am not aware that we have that power, but we would very much like to have that power.

Second, does the Hon. Member realize that the financial assistance given, for example, to Petromont, and the opportunity for Petrosar—

**Mr. Fennell:** That is a band-aid.

**Mr. Lumley:** That is \$100 million. That is a band-aid? I am surprised that the Conservative Party is now calling \$100 million a band-aid, Mr. Speaker.