

Oral Questions

real refinery market rather than all the way across Canada.

DELIVERY OF OIL PRODUCTS FROM COME-BY-CHANCE
REFINERY TO MONTREAL AND QUEBEC

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I should like to ask him to what extent the lack of delivery systems from the Come-by-Chance refinery has affected his decisions about products from that refinery and whether his industry advisory committee has given the minister any advice regarding delivery of products from that refinery to Montreal and Quebec?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the constraint I just mentioned was, of course, the date of the starting of the refinery but, if that should be effective with a full product line, at the present time it looks as though the two tankers of the Newfoundland Refining Company would be the best available for winter shipment. It might be possible to find other ice-classed tankers for the purpose of moving the product. But there is a constraint arising from the fact that it is difficult to move it through the ice in the winter time.

HOME HEATING OIL—REQUEST THAT SALES TAX BE
REMOVED IN YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Since the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has indicated that the consumers of home heating fuels in the two northern territories will suffer price increases along with other Canadians, since the Prime Minister and other members of the treasury benches have indicated that if any sales tax relief is to be experienced it will have to be at the provincial level, and since the minister is directly responsible in the area of the two northern territories, will he give the assurance that he will instruct each of his appointed commissioners in those two territories to introduce legislation to remove the sales tax which now exists on home heating fuels in both northern territories?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I shall consider the hon. member's suggestion and see if it could be applied. There are several taxes, but I know that most consumer taxes do not exist in the Northwest and Yukon Territories in respect of heating oil. I shall look into the matter and see if the situation could be improved.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville rising on a supplementary?

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

CRUDE PETROLEUM—INTENTION OF GOVERNMENT
RESPECTING CONTINUATION OF PRICE FREEZE AFTER
JANUARY 31, 1974

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Yes, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary is on pricing. I should like to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources whether or not he can assure the people of this country that after the end of January there will be a price freeze on petroleum products?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated yesterday in response to the hon. gentleman's leader, I cannot do this at the moment. This is one of the questions being discussed with the Alberta government.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, in view of the tremendous pressure coming from Canada's biggest oil lobby, namely, the Conservative Party and Sheik Lougheed—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nystrom: Obviously I hit a sensitive spot, Mr. Speaker—to end the price controls on crude oil, can the minister assure the House that he will not succumb to this pressure which is highly undesirable for the people of this country?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, when I do not co-operate with Alberta I am given hell and when I do I am given hell too. It is a difficult situation.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Bellechasse wish to ask a supplementary question?

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

BASIS OF OPINION OF GOVERNMENT RESPECTING POSSIBLE
SHORTFALL IN OIL SUPPLIES

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, since the House is going all the way on supplementary questions, then I shall ask mine so as to follow this practice. I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who seems full of energy.

Seriously speaking, my question is the following: a release from the Canada-Near East press service indicates that Canadian oil production is 2 million barrels a day, including 1 million barrels for domestic use, and also that Canada has obtained considerable oil supplies in Venezuela and Romania which are more than sufficient. Can the minister inform the House whether government fears of an oil shortage are based mainly on the fact that Canada has too heavy supply commitments with other countries? If so, what countries are involved?

● (1440)

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the problem at this time is that we have not adequate means of transporting oil to all Canadian markets.