

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

REASON FOR DELAY OF DECISION ON DRILLING IN BEAUFORT SEA—TYPE OF INFORMATION NEEDED PRIOR TO DECISION

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. A news report in one of today's newspapers alleges that the cabinet has delayed for one month issuing a permit to Dome Petroleum for the drilling of oil in the Beaufort Sea. Why was the decision delayed for only one month?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the government felt that additional information was required before it would be in a position to take a final decision. Pending receipt of necessary information, we delayed for one month.

Mr. Firth: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. For what information are we waiting? Would the minister consider delaying this decision for more than one year? Also, can he estimate how an intervention by the United States would affect the decision?

Mr. Buchanan: Mr. Speaker, there are indications from the United States that they would like to study the information. The authorities there are concerned about the effects of a blowout on the north coast. They are worried about the ramifications. These and other factors we shall need to examine further, prior to taking a decision at the end of one month.

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AGRICULTURE

EFFECT ON EXPORT TRADE OF REMOVAL OF TRANSPORTATION SUBSIDY ON FLOUR—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Agriculture arises from the government's intention to remove, effective April 1, the subsidy paid for the transportation of flour and grain which is to be exported from eastern Canadian ports. Has the minister examined the impact of this proposal on the flour and grain industry, and on other related industries in Canada? If so, can he say what impact this action will have on our flour and grain export trade? I ask this as Canadian flour exports in the past 20 years have declined dramatically, and the government's action will reduce further our penetration of the important market for these commodities.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, may I answer the last part of the question first? I think the hon. member knows that more countries now mill their own flour. It is easier to transport grain to many parts of the world than to transport flour. We are concerned about what milling in other countries may do to the flour milling industry in eastern Canada especially. At present we have studies under way. I have been in touch with the President of the Treasury Board, to discuss this in detail.

Oral Questions

Mr. Mazankowski: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. What action is the minister's department, or associated departments, prepared to take, in order to increase Canada's penetration of the export flour market, our share in which declined by 50 per cent in the past 20 years while world demand increased by 50 per cent.

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat what I said earlier. As the hon. member knows, many countries have received help for establishing milling facilities within their own borders. Our wheat is being moved to those countries. They are using our commodity. This is how they want to do it and we are selling all the wheat we can, as I am sure the hon. member knows.

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ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM

SUGGESTED PROVISION OF SAFEGUARDS AGAINST POSSIBILITIES ENVISAGED BY MR. TURNER

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George—Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Prime Minister relates to the revealing statement recently made by the former minister of finance who described the government's incomes control program as being extremely restrictive of personal freedom and suggested that because of its open-endedness, it will lead to totalitarian rule. Has the Prime Minister discussed these revelations of the former minister with the cabinet? If so, is the government prepared to review the program and provide safeguards, to guard against eventualities to which the former minister alluded?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I do not think it is proper for me to reveal everything which goes on in cabinet. When the matter is of such high importance as the alleged quotation of the hon. member I, of course, could not answer the question.

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MANPOWER

MEASURES TO ASSURE CANADIAN HELICOPTER PILOTS ARE GIVEN JOB PREFERENCE

Mr. Roger Young (Niagara Falls): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. As large numbers of Canadian helicopter pilots, who, incidentally, received expensive training in this country are unemployed—

Mr. Nielsen: At Niagara Falls?

Mr. Young:—and as foreign pilots still seem to get the best if not the largest number of available jobs, especially in the far north, would the minister consult on this matter with his manpower officials, to make certain that unemployed Canadian pilots are given job preference and thus ease our unemployment difficulties?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I shall certainly take note of