

[English]

TRANSPORT

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND CAUSEWAY— REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTENTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. In view of the commitment given a month ago to make a decision and announce it on the future of the Northumberland strait crossing, has the minister been in contact with the premier of Prince Edward Island to communicate to him the difficulties in arriving at a decision and could he enlighten the house at the same time?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first question is yes, I have been talking to the premier of Prince Edward Island, and at this time the answer to the second part is no.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I have a supplementary question. In view of the nearly one year's consideration that has gone into the resumption or otherwise of this project, can the minister indicate whether or not we will hear on this matter before the end of the year?

Mr. Laing (Vancouver South): I indicated November at one time, and now I hesitate to suggest December.

OIL

CONSIDERATION OF BRIEF OF INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I directed a question to the Prime Minister on December 5, as the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and his parliamentary secretary were both away ill, asking whether the government had considered the adoption of the proposals of the Independent Petroleum Association of Canada, at which time the right hon. Prime Minister said he would take notice of the question. Can the Prime Minister say whether the government will follow the recommendations and proposals of the I.P.A. of Canada and allow western oil into eastern Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have some doubts whether I should have allowed the question in the first instance. It seems to me

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the hon. member was asking then and is asking again for a policy statement. But in view of the fact that in a moment of weakness the first question was allowed, the second one may be allowed also.

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is a highly technical question to which, I confess, I do not know the answer. As the hon. member knows, the minister is still in hospital and I do not have an answer to the question from him. I will make sure the department studies the question.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, may I ask if the government could look into the resolutions and proposals sent by the I.P.A. of Canada?

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

INQUIRY AS TO REPRESENTATION OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Will he authorize official representation from the Northwest Territories at the forthcoming federal-provincial conference next week?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I have answered this question several times before, Mr. Speaker. We intend to include as part of the federal delegation some representatives of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

Mr. Yewchuk: I have a supplementary question. Will the official representatives of the Northwest Territories at the federal-provincial conference consist of the elected members of the Northwest Territories council?

Mr. Trudeau: The selection of the delegation has not yet been finalized both as regards members from the Northwest Territories and members of the cabinet, but I expect it to be done at this week's cabinet meeting.

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): I have a supplementary question I would like to ask the Prime Minister. Will these representatives be considered as delegates to the conference?

Mr. Trudeau: They will be part of the federal delegation and in that sense they will be delegates. However, as the hon. member knows, the federal government speaks with