

Oral Questions

is crucial to the project, could not be guaranteed. Considering that Canada has no power to bargain at all—we have given it away; the minister knew that and said it when he was in opposition—will the minister be offering his resignation on this matter? Could he explain what Mr. Sharp was talking about in this statement?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I will be very happy to ask the question of Mr. Sharp and to report to my hon. friend. However, I must remind him quite clearly that if, for any reason, the partners were to abandon the project for the time being, even, and not demonstrate a clear commitment to the particular project, there is no assurance once we have wound down our operations here that Canada could wind them up again expeditiously and meet the United States commitment.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN SPEAKER'S GALLERY OF ONTARIO SOLICITOR GENERAL, HON. GEORGE TAYLOR

Madam Speaker: May I draw the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery of the Hon. George Taylor, Solicitor General for the province of Ontario.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

DEVELOPMENT OF EAST COAST OFFSHORE RESOURCES

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Madam Speaker, the symptoms of energy disaster are as prevalent today on the Atlantic coast as they have been in Canada's west. All offshore explorers in Atlantic Canada have repeatedly announced slowdowns and delays as they tried to cope with the pernicious inertia of the government's energy policy. Having learned a lesson in western Canada at the expense of all Canadians, would the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources now recognize that his policies are on a collision course with economic disaster for Canada? Would he immediately change his tax and royalty terms and Petro-Canada's expropriation rights, and would he thereafter immediately endeavour to negotiate viable energy development programs for all potential offshore resources in Atlantic Canada and negotiate with Atlantic Canada premiers and researchers in the oil fields?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I remind the hon. member that we have been negotiating with the maritime premiers. As a matter of fact, we recently signed an agreement with the Premier of Nova Scotia, an agreement which the government of Nova Scotia and the people of Nova Scotia have hailed as very positive and constructive and as one which augurs

extremely well for development in offshore Nova Scotia. Also I advise my colleague that there has already been a meeting between Nova Scotia and Government of Canada officials and that a new agreement was arrived at and several issues were dealt with at that meeting. As a matter of fact, the Premier of Nova Scotia indicated that he was looking forward to very dynamic development in offshore Nova Scotia. I advise my friend that we have received a number of applications for further exploration offshore Nova Scotia. This is only one example among many. I suggest my hon. friend should get his facts straight as to what is happening in the maritimes.

Mr. McCain: Madam Speaker, all Canada, except apparently the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, is aware that the provinces submitted to inexorable pressure by the federal government to submit to rules, regulations and taxation which they knew full well would deter, if not destroy, the development of oil resources in the nation of Canada. The west is our example, and all the rhetoric of the minister is a waste of time.

Some hon. Members: Question!

Mr. McCain: Last year Canada spent—

Some hon. Members: Question!

Mr. McCain: I would ask hon. members opposite—

Madam Speaker: Order. Hon. Members are quite correct in asking the hon. member to put his question. I was about to rise to ask the same thing.

Mr. McCain: I will be very brief, Madam Speaker. I only wish they had as much patience with the questioner as we have with the answerer.

Madam Speaker: Order.

REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION OF INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Madam Speaker, last year we imported almost \$7 billion worth of oil, at a time when our balance of payments was very unfavourable. Would the minister now swallow his pride, his jealousy, his greed, and come up with a realistic, dynamic, incentive-loaded, petrochemical oil and gas developmental program which would not extract from Canadians all the money he wants and would put fuel in the hands of Canadians at a price which they can afford?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I suppose I would need a lot of time to go through all that rhetoric, but I will try to limit myself to telling the hon. member that the subsidiaries of American companies investing in Canada in the oil and gas field will increase their expenditures in Canada this year by 28 per cent.

Mr. McCain: Over what?