

and ensuring that the commitment of his party, that is to give the Minister of Agriculture even greater stature and make of him a special adviser to the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada who, yesterday, in his speech, did not even allude to the agriculture department. What does the Minister of Agriculture intend to do to make sure that he can fulfil—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

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● (1200)

[English]

## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

### PROTECTION AGAINST OIL SPILLS IN WEST COAST WATERS

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for recognizing me without binoculars. My question is for the Postmaster General and Minister of the Environment. It concerns a possible west coast oil port at or near Port Angeles, Washington.

I think the minister and I share some common ground in this matter. We both live in British Columbia and love the west coast. We both regret any possibility of a spill in those waters. What does the minister propose to do to ensure that the routing of Alaskan oil will be done in the best interests of Canada and will not endanger the west coast?

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Postmaster General and Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question and his expressions of common cause in environmental problems. At the present time, the Government of Canada has indicated to the United States, by an aide memoire, that the preference would be for the Foothills' route, which would be an overland route, and that the Kitimat route does not meet with our approval. No mention has been made of Trans Mountain, but the aide memoire indicates that any decision will be subject to the Canadian regulatory process. That means Trans Mountain and Foothills will appear before the National Energy Board. We will watch very closely those deliberations.

The object of the exercise is to minimize, to the degree possible, tanker traffic on the west coast. This is not completely in our hands, but to the degree that we can get one of those options selected, as opposed to the northern tier route across the United States, we will have met our environmental objectives at least to a degree. If all else fails, we will have to work very closely with the United States in an agreement to ensure that navigation is safe and that clean-up facilities and crews are available.

INQUIRY WHETHER PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT CARTER WILL DISCUSS SUGGESTED OIL PORT ON WEST COAST

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister on this

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matter. Considering that President Carter, by American law, must make a decision on the oil port by December 6, and considering that the Prime Minister, I understand, is meeting with the President in Ottawa in November, is the Prime Minister prepared to put on the agenda of that meeting the crucial matter of the oil port? Is he prepared to ask the President if it is possible to extend that American timetable so that we can work out a proper timetable suitable for the interests of both countries?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to raise that matter with the President of the United States when he is here. I should like to take the opportunity to advise the House of Commons that there has been a confirmation of dates of the visit of the President of the United States to Canada on November 9 and 10 of this year. I will be extending, on behalf of the House of Commons—or suggesting that the Speakers do—the opportunity for the President of the United States to deliver an address to a joint session of this House.

I will be pleased to raise the matter with him. If it looks like there is any practical possibility of our achieving any extension of those deadlines, I would be prepared to raise that matter with him as well. Naturally, I will not raise that matter if it appears that there is no practical possibility of the American President responding positively.

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## NORTHERN AFFAIRS

### PROVINCIAL STATUS FOR THE YUKON

**Mr. Ian Watson (Châteauguay):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister resulting from the unsatisfactory answer his minister gave in the House yesterday regarding the resignation of the commissioner of the Yukon in protest over his government according certain provincial powers to the Yukon Territorial Council, which is the government for the 23,000 inhabitants of the Yukon. He did this without consulting Parliament, without consulting, as promised, the people of the Yukon or the provincial premiers. What appears to be happening is the establishment of *de facto* provincehood without the consent of either Yukoners or the Parliament of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Watson:** Can the Prime Minister assure the House that the commissioner will remain on the executive committee, and that no changes to the commissioner's role and no additional provincial powers will be turned over to the Yukon Territorial Council without reference to and a full review by the Parliament of Canada of all the implications of this irresponsible rush toward provincehood?

**An hon. Member:** Shame.