

Oral Questions

GRAIN

TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES OF PEACE RIVER FARMERS

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. He is well aware of the serious transportation problem of many grain farmers in parts of the Peace country. We have been ignored by previous Governments. When can we expect some action to deal with this very serious problem?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Hon. Member for his efforts in trying to alleviate the problems of farmers in the Peace River district, and to provide a better transportation service for grain at more equitable rates. Within the next few weeks I should be in a position to announce a mechanism which will be put in place to review various alternatives and options that could best serve the farmers of the Peace River district. I hope I will have the Hon. Member's support and input, as well as the input of Hon. Members who reside in that area.

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ENERGY

HIBERNIA OILFIELD—MODE OF DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Yesterday the Minister put words in her Leader's mouth which were never uttered by him in the House of Commons. In the interests of clarity today, would the Minister explain what she meant when she said yesterday that her Government will not accept "a formal environmental impact statement until such time as Newfoundland decides the mode of development"? Is the Minister saying that the Government of Newfoundland alone and unilaterally will decide the mode of development or production for Hibernia oil?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I would have thought the Member would have risen on a real problem which is being created off Newfoundland, that is, the iceberg that is bearing down on Hibernia and threatening two rigs.

● (1150)

Again, I can only refer the Hon. Member to *Hansard* which shows that the Prime Minister said nothing of the sort.

Mr. Tobin: Read *Hansard*?

Miss Carney: Mr. Speaker, am I allowed to read from *Hansard*? When asked if he would table it, he said very clearly—

Mr. Tobin: Where? Where?

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me it is reasonable that if someone has been asked to answer a question that the House listen to

the answer. It is reasonable to ask that the House listen to the answer.

Miss Carney: The Prime Minister was asked if he had a copy of the study and if the Prime Minister would undertake to obtain a copy. The Prime Minister said:

Yes, I will make that undertaking on behalf of the Minister.

When he was questioned repeatedly on November 27, the Prime Minister said:

Mr. Speaker, I hoped that the Minister would be back in the House today. She has been detained in Toronto. She will provide my hon. friend with an answer as soon as she returns.

He always said that, if and when we had the report, it would be tabled. I have told the Hon. Member over and over again that I do not have a final report that is acceptable to me and to the Government of Newfoundland because the mode of development has not been decided upon.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss Carney: As I tried to explain yesterday, one does not determine an environmental impact of a development until one knows how one is going to drill for the oil.

JOB CREATION QUERY

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I hope you will be almost as generous with me as you have been with the Minister who again has been misleading the House, I hope inadvertently. I invite everyone, including the gentlemen of the press, to read *Hansard*.

An Hon. Member: And women.

Mr. Tobin: And the gentlewomen of the press.

Would the Minister confirm that, as part of that environmental assessment impact study, an attitudinal study conducted by Mobil indicates, based on statements that have been made by the provincial Government, that 50,000 Newfoundlanders expect to get jobs on that development? Will she tell us what the real, sober estimate is for jobs in the Hibernia development as outlined by Mobil Oil in a report that she is suppressing?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am really astounded by the Hon. Member's question. I have said I have not received the report. Therefore, I have not read it. I do not have a report that establishes the environmental impact of the development of Hibernia on Newfoundland.

May I point out that when the Hon. Member's Party was in power, it totally excluded Newfoundland from having any say whatsoever in the development of the offshore.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!