

*Oral Questions*

## PREDICTED LOSS OF JOBS

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** Madam Speaker, the Economic Council of Canada in its 1980 review predicted that failure to go ahead with the large energy projects would mean, and I quote: "A cumulative total of 753,000 jobs would be lost over that period", referring to the 1980-1990 period. Given that the worst fears of the Economic Council of Canada appear to be true, what action does the minister plan to make up for these 753,000 jobs lost to Canada in the next decade as a result of his energy program?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I have two comments and maybe three to make to my hon. friend. First, this government has always been supportive of the tar sands projects. In February, 1980, September, 1980, January, 1981, February, 1981 and all the months in between we have been supportive of those projects. I invite him to reflect upon some other decisions made not by this government but which had an impact on the decision to proceed. Second, I remind him that those projects are far from being shelved. Some may be delayed. Some are proceeding. Some will proceed quicker, such as development of the Beaufort and development off the east coast. They appear to be proceeding quicker than had been anticipated because of discoveries. Third, I remind my hon. friend that the Economic Council of Canada has very often been proven wrong, even in the last year, with its forecasts.

## ALSANDS PROJECT—TAX AND ROYALTY STRUCTURES

**Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca):** Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The minister knows full well that the delay in the Alsands project and the Imperial project was because there were not royalty structures in place and the tax structure set by the federal government was not in place. The minister also knows that the dry-up in the cash flow of the companies has stopped them from proceeding. In his offer to the industry, has the minister cut back on the PGRT to increase the cash flows to the company, and has he altered the tax and royalty structures offered to the companies?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, the government of Alberta and the Government of Canada during the last few months have worked hand in hand to develop a proposal that would be fair to the companies and to the taxpayers and consumers of the country. These have been the objectives, and these objectives have been shared between the government of Alberta and ourselves. We have worked, as I said, extremely closely together. We have put forward joint proposals that, for the time being, are confidential. Once the companies have made their decision we will be very pleased to reveal the content of our proposals.

● (1420)

## PIPELINES

## ALASKA GAS PIPELINE—GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Madam Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Despite vague assurances given to us by him in the past that there is nothing to worry about, and the seven years delay already experienced with the Alaska gas line project, the Secretary of State for External Affairs in his letter of April 23 to his counterpart, Mr. Alexander Haig in the United States, stated that we have now come to a "critical impasse". I wonder if the government and the minister can explain what is meant by a "critical impasse." And, also, could he explain the nature of the veiled threats contained in that letter? Is the Government of Canada threatening to withdraw Canadian support for this project?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, the support for this project is part of the legislation that has been endorsed by Parliament and passed by Parliament under this government several years ago. So the support for the project is clear, is there, and it has been continuous. As far as the impasse to which my hon. friend refers is concerned, it is not an impasse that has anything to do with the two governments. There appears to be some difficulty at the present time in the United States among the promoters of that project. The Secretary of State for External Affairs wanted to draw this situation to the attention of the Secretary of State in the United States, to see if the United States administration would not use its good offices to try to resolve any of the outstanding issues there might be between the producers and the distributors in the Alaska gas pipeline project.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Where is the ironclad guarantee?

## REQUEST FOR GUARANTEE ON STARTING OF PROJECT

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Madam Speaker, in view of the fact that thousands and thousands of jobs have been lost already, jobs in the steel, the construction and other industries, can the minister now give this House his ironclad guarantee—

**Mr. Nielsen:** Once again.

**Mr. Nickerson:** —that the project will start within the next six months? Does he still believe that the project can be completed solely by private financing? Can he advise us what were the results of the meeting in New York last night between the Hon. Mitchell Sharp and the pipeline proponents?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I am not in a position to report on the result of the visit by Mr. Sharp in New York yesterday. I have not been informed of the results of that visit. I might