

Oral Questions

POWER

FUNDY TIDES—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON
RECONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF BOARD

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources tell us where the re-examination of the report of the board on the Fundy tidal power project stands at present, and can he give some indication—

• (1120)

Mr. Speaker: Order please. I am not sure that is really a supplementary. However, the question has been asked and as it may move us on to the next subject perhaps the minister might reply.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to get the hon. member a progress report on that re-examination.

* * *

ENERGY

OIL PRICE INCREASE—INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBILITY OF
PIPELINE FROM WESTERN CANADA TO MONTREAL

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that the oil price increase seems to be have been based on the fact that offshore oil producers have set their landed price at Montreal at a higher figure, and in order to get around the jacking up of oil prices in the rest of Canada, can the minister indicate whether the government has any plans to promote the building of a pipeline to Montreal for Canadian crude?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Not at the present time, Mr. Speaker.

INQUIRY AS TO DECISION ON PROPOSED MACKENZIE
VALLEY PIPELINE

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. What is the present status of the proposed Mackenzie pipeline and has the government reached any decision on the undesirability of building that pipeline?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, with regard to any pipeline in the Mackenzie Valley the initiative would have to rest, as is always the case in pipeline applications, with the private group, the consortium that has been formed for this purpose. I am advised that possibly there will be an application coming forward in September of this year for a natural gas pipeline in the Mackenzie Valley but, of course, that would go to the National Energy Board for public hearings and discussion. As I say, the initiative in such an application rests with the private group.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. members will notice there are quite a few members who are suggesting there

[Mr. Speaker.]

should be further supplementaries. We have spent close to 20 minutes on this subject. I realize at the same time that other members have questions to ask. There will be another two or three supplementaries and then I suggest we should go on to the next subject and, if there is time, return to this matter later.

* * *

INCOME TAX

INQUIRY AS TO AMENDMENTS TO ACT TO PLACE
CANADIANS ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH U.S. INVESTORS
IN OUR OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. As a result of our concern and his concern for security of supplies in the oil industry and his concern for Canadian ownership, does he intend to introduce amendments to the Income Tax Act in his budget which would have the effect of encouraging Canadians and placing them on an equal footing with United States investors in the oil and gas industry in Canada?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will take note of the hon. gentleman's representation but he will appreciate it would be difficult for me to answer that question before budget night.

* * *

COPPER

TIMING OF PRICE INCREASES—INVESTIGATION OF
POSSIBILITY OF COLLUSION BY COMPANIES

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs if he can inform the House whether he has discussed with officials of the Canadian copper producing companies the unusual coincidence of copper price increases being announced by several companies within minutes of each other?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have not had such a discussion but I will see that the hon. gentleman's question is directed to the attention of the appropriate officials in my department.

Mr. Peters: Will the minister direct this matter to the attention of the Director of Research and Investigation under the Combines Investigation Act to determine whether there was collusion and whether the copper price increases were unjustified?

Mr. Gray: Mr. Speaker, I intended to imply in my previous answer that I would see that the matter was drawn to the attention of the Director of Investigation and Research.