

Oral Questions

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, the hon. member must have misunderstood what I said at the time. I have no disagreement with the notion that the price must be set before production starts. We know that production in this field is several years down the line. Supposedly the member quoted a vice-president of Petro-Canada. I thought he was referring to the vice-president of Chevron, but even if he is a vice-president of Petro-Canada, I have no quarrel with the argument that there must be a decision on price. What the price will be is a matter which is being examined and will be decided in plenty of time for the necessary expenditures to be incurred for production purposes; there is no doubt about that.

Mr. MacKay: Madam Speaker, I wonder whether the minister could assist me with respect to another comment of Mr. Meneley, the same Petro-Canada official. In a headline story which appeared in the January 14 edition of the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald*, he is quoted as saying that oil exploration will decline in 1981. In one article he is reported as saying that it will decline because of "an extremely serious worldwide shortage of oil rigs" which "continues to plague companies exploring off the east coast". He agrees with Mobil Oil Canada and Petro-Canada officials in this respect. Then in the same newspaper he says that oil industry production "in 1981 will likely decline because of . . . political pressure to try to change the National Energy Program". These are direct quotes of Meneley.

Does the minister not see the contradiction? On the one hand this Petro-Canada official is saying that "political pressure" will stop east coast oil production. On the other hand he is saying that there is a "worldwide shortage of oil rigs". Does the minister agree that these contradictory statements of an official of PetroCan, who appears to be taking a very high political profile in this important industry on the east coast, are not in the best interests of the east coast?

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lalonde: I disagree with the hon. member, Madam Speaker.

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● (1200)

TRANSPORT**CROWNEST PASS RATES—ESTABLISHMENT OF SHORT-TERM STUDY—REPORTED LOBBY BY FOOD PROCESSORS**

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. I would like to ask him whether he can inform the House how close the government is to establishing a short-term study, which has been talked about, in terms of the resolution of the Crownsnest Pass rates.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I think quite close. It is not as early as I would like it but it is quite close. The main subject will be the creation of a

task force, which would go into the subject and try to develop a consensus, which has already progressed quite substantially in western Canada.

Mr. Murta: Madam Speaker, statements in the press have indicated that a lobby by eastern food processors has been a major stumbling block in terms of the government's resolution as to what direction they should go. Can the minister comment on this and either confirm or deny these particular reports?

Mr. Pepin: Madam Speaker, I am sure the interests of the eastern feeders and cattle people, as opposed to the interests of the western cattlemen, will be brought up in the discussion which is to take place soon among members of the cabinet. That will be but one factor among many others.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

TABLE OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 1980

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 41(2) I would like to table copies of the Public Accounts for the year ending March 31, 1980.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 1,662, 1,670, 1,728, 1,750 and 1,778.

[Text]

DREE GRANTS TO BOMBARDIER INC., MONTREAL

Question No. 1,662—**Mr. Neil:**

Since the inception of the DREE program, what are the details of all grants made to Bombardier Inc., Montreal?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): The response for the Department of Regional Economic Expansion is as follows: