

● (1200)

TAR SANDS OIL—POSSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPMENT—EXPLORATION INCENTIVES TO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Can the Prime Minister clarify his position with regard to the oil sands? He indicated he wants to see rapid development. Is it the position of the government that they want to become directly involved by way of direct investment in this development? Second, what incentives to exploration—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that they should ask only one question at a time. I think it complicates matters to ask a series of questions. I suggest the hon. member might ask the first question and the second as a supplementary.

Mr. Yewchuk: Is the government planning direct investment in the Alberta oil sands?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the government is determined to see that those oil sands are brought into full production for the benefit of the Canadian people. The form this will take will be discussed this weekend after the meeting with the provincial ministers. The federal minister intends to spend some time with the Alberta minister discussing this very question.

Mr. Yewchuk: My supplementary question pertains to encouragement of exploration. The Prime Minister did not make any reference to this in his statement last night. Can he clarify what incentives to exploration by private enterprise his policy will include?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, if I did not make any reference to that last night it was because I did not want to make the program any longer. The hon. member and the industry know there are already incentives being given to the industry for exploration in the form of depletion allowances.

OIL PIPELINE EXTENSION TO MONTREAL—REASONS FOR DELAY OF DECISION TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION—DEADLINE FOR DECISION BY INTERPROVINCIAL PIPE LINE COMPANY

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Prime Minister a question regarding extension of the oil pipeline to Montreal to which he committed the government on September 4. In view of the fact the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has repeatedly said that no decision has been reached because of some problems in financing the construction of this pipeline, will the Prime Minister state whether these financial problems have been settled? If not, what is the nature of these problems that are preventing a decision to begin the construction of the pipeline, which must be done within the next two years if the problems of eastern Canada are to be resolved?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I agree with the conclusion of the question. That

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is why I said we had enough information to enable me to say it would be terminated by the end of 1975. As to the other part of the question, we are determined that the pipeline will be built, whether it be with private or public financing or a combination of both.

Mr. Douglas: What deadline has the Prime Minister set for Interprovincial Pipe Line Company to make a decision and can he assure the House that, if Interprovincial Pipe Line Company is not prepared to proceed by that deadline, the government will undertake the construction itself inasmuch as the whole inter-provincial pipeline ought to be brought under public ownership in view of the present situation?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I think I just indicated the answer to that. We are determined that it be built. If the private sector, either completely or in part, does not see reasons for building it, we will make sure it is built with public funds. I hope the House of Commons will co-operate and set a deadline so there will not be the kind of filibuster that will prevent the pipeline going through on time.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

APPOINTMENT OF FORMER QUEBEC MINISTER AS ADVISER TO MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

Mrs. Albanie Morin (Louis-Hébert): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Could he tell the House if Quebec ex-Minister of Social Affairs Claude Castonguay has been approached with a view to retaining his services as special adviser to the department?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to confirm that Mr. Claude Castonguay has agreed to act as adviser to the planning group charged with the task of reviewing the Canadian social security plan. I am quite happy, as are all my provincial colleagues to be able to rely on the great ability and experience of Mr. Castonguay.

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I do so hesitantly because I do not want to appear ungallant to the hon. member for Louis-Hébert (Mrs. Morin).

Some hon. Members: Sit down!

Mr. Nielsen: That last question was clearly a put-up job and an abuse of the question period that has already been cut in half because of the non-policy, grumbling and bumbling of this government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!