

people of Canada. I refer specifically to the report's conclusion at page 7, which is that because the household labour force is technologically unsophisticated, it cannot always make the right decisions when it makes its purchases. In view of this gratuitous insult to my wife, the minister's wife, Your Honour's wife and all those who work at home, I move, seconded by the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie):

That this unsophisticated minister apologize to the millions of Canadian housewives for his arrogance and slurs on their intelligence.

Mr. Speaker: The presentation of such a motion for discussion requires unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

INDUSTRY

NORTHERN PIPELINE—CANADIAN CONTENT OF PIPE—REQUEST BORDEN REPORT BE TABLED

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister. As the Deputy Prime Minister must be aware, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce prepared for the government a study outlining expected Canadian manpower and manufacturers' content in the pipeline project, entitled "Canadian Industry and Manpower Requirements and Content for a Northern Gas Pipeline". The study was finished in July, 1977. It was headed by Dr. Borden. The report suggests that 82 per cent Canadian manufacturing content is the maximum that can be achieved under perfect conditions, and that the Canadian content may vary substantially from that percentage, for various reasons, including pricing conditions, tied and concessional financing, government monitoring, corporate attitudes, and other factors.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister confirm the existence of this report? Will he release copies to members of parliament so that we can have them while the debate on the pipeline is under way, and does the government accept the conclusions in that report as being correct?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I know that various documentary material has been prepared in connection with the negotiations for the pipeline and various estimates have been produced. I would have to verify the name and content of the report to which the hon. member refers, and consider whether in the circumstances it could be made available.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Deputy Prime Minister will agree that he gave us no new information yesterday. Does the Deputy Prime Minister not agree that

Oral Questions

members of parliament are entitled to information on the important question? This study deals with the manufacturing content of the pipeline project and what percentage of that, and manpower requirements, can be Canadian. Is this not the kind of information members of this House should have, together with information on pipe dimensions that was promised us yesterday? Could the minister assure me that we will have this report once he verifies its existence?

● (1417)

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I believe it is perfectly reasonable to have as much information as possible. We will be going into committee and we will make every effort to provide information on questions of manpower possibilities and the rather enormous job opportunities that will occur as a result of the construction and operation of the pipeline.

Mr. Crosbie: A final supplementary question. When the Deputy Prime Minister checks, he will see that apart from the pipe to be used in this project, the report says the project can only obtain the Canadian content figure that the government indicates if appropriate guidelines, controls and monitoring are instituted. Will the Deputy Prime Minister indicate whether the government is prepared to have the proposed pipeline agency make available to parliament quarterly reports on the objectives of Canadian content and the progress being made toward these objectives, and have those quarterly reports referred to a standing committee of this House so that we can ensure there is proper monitoring in this area?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, in his speech yesterday, the hon. member for Yukon made a suggestion along these lines and asked that it be considered and dealt with in committee. I am not sure if we want to deal with matters in the question period that will be dealt with by the House during orders of the day and when we go into committee on the bill.

NORTHERN PIPELINE—TABLING OF REPORTS RESPECTING CANADIAN CONTENT OF PIPE

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Deputy Prime Minister dealing with the exceptionally shoddy behaviour of the government and the manner in which members of this House have been treated with regard to information relevant to the pipeline debate. To be fair, I had a call today from Colin MacDonald, of the minister's office, for the first time offering assistance.

Arising out of the question put by the hon. member for St. John's West, will the Deputy Prime Minister now table the report which has been referred to and any others he may have up his sleeve and is keeping secret by tomorrow at the latest, so we may have this information in front of us during the remainder of the debate? Or is it his intention to continue the 1956 tactics of hiding reports?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I will consider what the hon. member has said, but I do not think I can add