

Oral Questions

● (1450)

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, indeed some very important recommendations have come forth from the advisory committee to which the Hon. Member refers. We are now in the process of putting in place a plan to implement a number of those very important recommendations that have been advanced. My colleague, the Minister of State, will be taking full responsibility for that. He will be announcing a plan of action in that regard in the very near future.

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CRIMINAL CODE**IMPAIRED DRIVING AMENDMENTS**

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Justice my question is for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice. The Parliamentary Secretary is well aware of the fact that, as a result of a news report yesterday, there is a great deal of concern in the minds of judges, law enforcement agencies, and the Canadian public, regarding the date on which the Criminal Code amendments, and specifically those relating to impaired driving, are likely to go into force and effect and become law in Canada. Will the Parliamentary Secretary give us a clarification of this matter? Will he advise the Canadian people of what his best judgment is of when the Criminal Code amendments relating to impaired driving will become law?

Mr. Chris Speyer (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, the Bill is presently in the other place. I anticipate, and indeed hope, that it goes through that place in all stages within two weeks. I know that we have received the co-operation of the NDP and of the Liberal Party. I do not think there is anyone in the House who does not want to see the strengthening of the impaired driving laws. I anticipate that by late summer this particular law will be in full force and effect.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**PETROMONT REQUEST—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. John Parry (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

As the Minister knows, the Quebec Government is committed to invest \$30 million to upgrade Petromont facilities. Will the federal Government make representations to the National Energy Board and support Petromont's application to upgrade and extend the natural gas pipeline with a view to ensuring the profitability of that plant?

[English]

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member is undoubtedly aware, there are various proposals being put forth at the present time concerning the petrochemical industry, and in particular the Petromont plant itself, including a possible pipeline to transport natural gas to that facility, as well as various other conversion approaches. Naturally we are helping with the study of some of these proposals and are discussing the matter with the Province of Quebec. We are certainly cognizant of the fact that the province has indicated that money could be made available by it in the way suggested by the Hon. Member, but at the present time we believe that we must consider all the possible alternatives connected to Petromont before making a federal decision.

[Translation]

PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY IN QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. John Parry (Kenora-Rainy River): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

The federal-provincial committee on Canada's petrochemical industry, which is made up of representatives of the western provinces, Ontario and Quebec, submitted its report to the federal Government last January. It concluded that the three petrochemical centres—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the Hon. Member have a supplementary question?

Mr. Parry: Here is my question, Mr. Speaker. Will the federal Government use its own studies, and will it guarantee Petromont's viability so as to maintain the 250 direct and 24,000 indirect jobs on the south shore?

[English]

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am sure all Hon. Members are well aware of the fact that we are indeed using such studies and other data bases. We are meeting with the industry at the present time. There is a memorandum of understanding under negotiation with the petrochemical industry that will, most important, hopefully solve some of the problems with respect to other plants in other areas of Canada. It is the Canadian petrochemical industry that we have as our concern, and we hope to restore it to a uniform viability.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**VISIT BY NICARAGUAN MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs, but first I would like to say to the Deputy Prime Minister that the women's section of the Charter of