

Mr. Nielsen: Hon. members opposite jeer, but those who were members of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs know full well the inaccuracy of the Prime Minister's remarks. Members of that committee heard evidence by officials of the RCMP that well over 1,000 electronic surveillances were kept on private telephones in this country. I think that the allegation I made has been well substantiated by that evidence and by the passage of a bill outlawing eavesdropping by such electronic devices:

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ENERGY

OIL AND GAS—INQUIRY AS TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RESPECTING PIPELINES

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether discussions are being held between Canadian and United States government officials in respect of the formulation of an agreement covering oil and gas pipelines? Can he tell the House the purpose of these discussions and whether they are to cover existing and future pipelines? What is the general nature of them and what is the objective the government has in mind in taking part?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the general objective is one which has been stated by myself and, I believe, by other ministers, that the possibility of having an agreement or treaty which would protect both countries if they were using privileges acquired on the territory of the other is an interesting one. Beyond the general exploration of the idea, I think I can say there is no specific discussion of measures to implement that at this time. Indeed, it seems to me that the idea would be linked to the acceptance of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline transporting U.S. resources and, as the hon. member knows, this is something which has not come up before the National Energy Board yet.

NATURAL GAS—REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT INSTRUCT ENERGY BOARD TO REVISE EXPORT PERMITS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Since the consortium which today is applying for permission to build the Mackenzie Valley pipeline on the ground that Canada will have a natural gas deficiency by 1979 is made up largely of the same companies which in 1970 persuaded the government to permit the export of 6.3 trillion cubic feet of gas on the ground that we had adequate supplies to meet all our requirements until 1995, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government is prepared to instruct the National Energy Board to review and revise these export permits for natural gas, as it is empowered to do under Section 17 of the National Energy Board Act?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in so far as this is a representation, I am sure it will be heard by the board. In so far as the hon. member is asking for a government directive, I will raise the matter

Oral Questions

with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who will be back in Ottawa later today.

OIL PIPELINE EXTENSION TO MONTREAL—INQUIRY WHETHER UNITED STATES URGING THAT CANADA NOT PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask one important supplementary question. Will the Prime Minister inform the House whether, in the discussions which are taking place between Canadian and United States officials regarding an over-all pipeline agreement, U.S. representatives have urged that Canada not proceed with the extension of the oil pipeline to Montreal?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member refers to discussions between officials on a particular question. I must confess that if his allegation is correct he is better informed than I am. I do not know and I did not answer that there were specific discussions on this specific pipeline question. I will look into the matter and if the hon. member has some information that I do not have I will ask why that is so.

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[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT—PROTECTION OF SOCIETY

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Following the unfortunate events which happened yesterday to Princess Ann and her husband and since a Senate committee in the United States, by a majority vote, has recently voted in favour of restoring the death penalty, does the government intend to reconsider the death penalty as a deterrent to crime in Canada as suggested in the United States and also to prevent criminal attempts such as the one which occurred yesterday in Great Britain and which could also happen in Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member probably knows that I have expressed on behalf of the Canadian people our regrets and our surprise following the criminal attempt made yesterday. However, as for the last part of his question, I must answer negatively that we do not intend to reintroduce that bill in Parliament. The legislation approved by the House is valid for 5 years and till then the government will merely administer it.

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, could the Prime Minister tell us also whether his government intends to introduce in this House other measures to prevent crime in Canada and to protect society rather than criminals?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member must have specific punishments in mind. If he cares to make me those suggestions he is thinking about, I am prepared to give them consideration.