

Oral Questions

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I suggest, as an alternative, that it might be advisable to take advantage of the relief that committees will have from responsibility for the estimates in the coming month to have a discussion, perhaps jointly with the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, on the guidelines that have been put forth up to this point, and also at a later date when additional guidelines, particularly financial, are available.

Mr. Saltsman: I do not feel that the minister has really answered the question I put to him. As the minister seems to be reluctant to answer the question, will he at least give parliament his reasons for not letting parliament make the decision on a pipeline that is of such importance and of such concern to this country?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I think I have answered the hon. gentleman's question. Parliament passed a statute specifically to deal with pipeline questions. I think it might be more appropriate to find out whether that statute has indeed served the interests of Canadians and whether the preparations for such hearings are adequate. If there is disagreement on that point, I suppose the question of amendments to the act might then be brought forward.

Mr. Baldwin: How would you vote, Max?

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[Translation]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS**SUGGESTION THAT BANK OF CANADA MAKE LOANS TO PROVINCES—DATE OF NEXT FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE**

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the right hon. Prime Minister regarding the recent federal-provincial conference.

First, did the conference discuss the possibility of the Bank of Canada making loans to provinces to promote faster economic development? Second, has a date been agreed upon for the next conference on the same topic?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, no to the first part of the question. As for the next conference, mention was made of the end of fall perhaps or of next winter, but not precisely to discuss the matter interesting the leader of the Social Credit Party of Canada. There was mention of industrial development and other similar topics.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. To foster industrial development, could the Prime Minister suggest that the provinces use the credits of the Bank of Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, it seems that within two years, the people in those two provinces which patiently gave the social credit system a 30-year trial grew disgusted with it and threw it out. This might explain why that system has not been carried on.

[Mr. Saltsman.]

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a final supplementary.

Is the Prime Minister aware that those two creditist provinces did not re-elect their respective government probably because their laws have been found ultra vires by the government of the right hon. Prime Minister?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will return later to supplementaries on this subject, but we should try to move on.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CANADIAN POSITION FOR PRESENTATION TO LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE RESPECTING WATERS OVER CONTINENTAL SHELF**

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Can the minister say whether the position he has stated publicly that Canada will go all out, flat, for an exclusive fishing zone that will include the fringes of our continental shelf represents the position of his department or the position—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows, I am sure, that a question cannot be asked in those terms. The question should be asked directly of the minister. During the oral question period questions cannot be asked about statements made by ministers outside the House except to inquire whether the statement represents government policy.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, that is what I am about to do, if Your Honour would have a little patience with me. I am asking the minister, can he indicate whether this has been accepted as the position that will be presented to the Law of the Sea Conference in 1974 by the government, and has the minister received clearance with respect to this position from the Secretary of States for External Affairs?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker the answer, basically, is yes. That has been my position and the position of the Department of Fisheries since 1968.

Mr. Lundrigan: Could the minister answer the second part of my question which is so vital? I understand that certain motions I put forward today were turned down because there was not agreement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can he indicate whether there has been clearance from the Secretary of State for External Affairs that this will be Canada's position at the Law of the Sea Conference?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I have had a great deal of support from the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I think the minister passed over my question. I wonder if he would indicate what the basis was for the presentation of the position on page 6 of his speech, which he released on Saturday and