

Inquiries of the Ministry

minister's answer that in fact he has had no communication with either or both of the co-chairmen of the B and B commission, and that the statement he made when opening the Public Service Language Centre and the recommendation of the B and B report are just coincidental?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

Some hon. Members: Answer.

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, I just answered that question. I said that I had not been in touch with either the co-chairmen or the commissioners about that matter. However, I did tell the hon. member, who did not seem to understand, that it was not just a coincidence, but that such an initiative seems to be the normal extension of the action undertaken by the government at the level of the public service with regard to bilingualism.

[English]

ENERGY

REQUEST FOR REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF SUBJECT OF INTEGRATED POLICY

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. My question arises from his exploratory discussions with Mr. Walter Hickel, Secretary of the Interior of the United States.

In view of the widespread interest in the subject of these discussions, and in view of the statement the minister himself made to the press, would the minister be prepared to move in the House reference of the whole question of an integrated energy policy to the appropriate standing committee or to a special committee so that Parliament could have an opportunity to review the subject, rather than be confronted with a *fait accompli* as was the case with the Columbia River treaty?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to consider the suggestion of the hon. member, but as he knows the Shultz commission is about to finish its work and report to the President. It may well be that in our continuing negotiations with the United States on this issue the question of oil policy will be settled independently of any broader initiatives prior to the reconvening of the House.

[Mr. Nowlan.]

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the minister's statement in the House the other day regarding what he alleged were the uneconomic aspects of transporting oil by pipeline from western Canada to Montreal, would the minister be prepared to table the working documents and data collected by the government so as to substantiate his statement?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, there were documents before the House as early as the Borden commission in regard to the cost of a pipeline to Montreal. My statement was to the effect that it is preferable to see Albertan oil being sold in its natural economic market, where it is profitable, rather than being sold where possibly it would not be so profitable to the producers, provided that the interests of consumers in Canada are adequately protected as well.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A further supplementary question. In view of the fact that the sale of oil in the United States and the bringing of oil to Montreal are not mutually exclusive, would the minister be prepared to give the House the data from which members can ascertain the economic feasibility of bringing western oil to Montreal?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest that this kind of information could not be given now. The hon. member may be suggesting that this be done by way of a statement.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I am not asking the minister to make a statement or to give the information now but merely to indicate whether or not he would be prepared to table the documents.

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, there is no one document which would make this information available. There have, of course, been many studies in this regard. I would be very pleased to consider the request of the hon. member, and if it is deemed in the national interest to have a broad discussion, at the committee level or otherwise, then I would be very glad to consider the matter.

WATER RESOURCES

SURVEY IN NORTHERN ONTARIO BY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a related question for the