

## Oral Questions

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

## QUERY RESPECTING DECISION ON ALSANDS PROJECT

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. According to press stories, the remaining members, or the last three members of the Alsands consortium were to make a decision today at a board meeting held in Calgary this morning. Can the minister tell the House whether that decision has been announced or whether this project is to join the long list of casualties in the National Energy Program?

● (1415)

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I have not been informed of any decision by any members of the consortium.

## FUTURE OF MAJOR PROJECTS

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** Madam Speaker, on page 94 of the National Energy Program there are listed eight major oil development programs which, over the next decade, are supposed to generate some 500,000 barrels of oil and tens and tens of thousands of jobs. With the exception of the first project, which started before the National Energy Program, everyone of those projects has either been cancelled, postponed, or is in serious jeopardy. Can the minister tell the House what he is going to do to make up for this terrible loss of crude oil production for Canada, and even worse loss of the tens and tens of thousands of jobs that would have been generated if these projects had gone ahead, and they would have gone ahead without the National Energy Program?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I remind the hon. member that in the United States there is no such thing as the National Energy Program, but they have cancelled and postponed a large number of megaprojects, particularly the Synfuels program, which is very similar to our tar sands projects. The hon. member knows that those decisions have been influenced very considerably by the situation of high interest rates in the western world, the relative glut in the supply of oil, and concern about the evolution of prices. The United States projects I have indicated have been delayed. I hope that the various projects that were considered, Cold Lake, for example, will be brought to realization once the environment with regard to the evolution of prices for oil is clarified.

**Mr. Andre:** What the minister neglected to mention, or has forgotten, is that these projects, particularly Alsands, would have been half completed now if they had been allowed to start in February, 1980, when they were ready to start construction of that plant.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

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## FORESTRY

## CLOSURE OF MACMILLAN BLOEDEL LUMBER MILL AT CHEMAINUS, B.C.—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Madam Speaker, MacMillan Bloedel in British Columbia has just announced the indefinite closure of its lumber mill at Chemainus as of May 14, 1982, with the loss of over 600 jobs. The word "indefinite" means only that the company can avoid severance payment to long-term employees. MacMillan Bloedel has made several fortunes from the resources of that area and the work of its employees. Instead of maintaining a modern plant at Chemainus, it has allowed it to deteriorate into a gunnysack operation while ploughing its profits into new operations in other parts of the world. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Alberni (Mr. Miller):

That this House condemn the irresponsible pillage of resources and disregard for its employees and their community shown by MacMillan Bloedel and that we condemn Liberal, Conservative and Social Credit governments which have adopted policies which encourage this cut and cut out philosophy.

**Madam Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

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## PENSIONS

## PLIGHT OF SINGLE PENSIONERS—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Madam Speaker, I, too, rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) recently gave a speech on pension reform in which she repeated again that it was nothing short of outrageous that, in 1982, being old, single and female is synonymous with being poor. Since she has stated in the past that it would cost \$730 million to bring single pensioners above the poverty line, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie):

That this House regard the statements of the Minister of National Health and Welfare as being totally outrageous in view of the fact that the government intends to allocate the \$819 million it no longer will spend on medicare and post-secondary education toward reducing the federal deficit instead of using this money to alleviate the condition of Canada's senior citizens.

**Madam Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.