Oral Questions

AIRPORTS

CALGARY INTERNATIONAL—REPLACEMENT OF CONTROL TOWER

Mr. John Kushner (Calgary East): Madam Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport of which he was given notice. About two years ago a multimillion dollar airport terminal was built in Calgary. This modern facility was built, if you can believe it, without an air traffic control tower. The existing control tower was built in 1968 as a temporary facility designed to last five to six years. It is now 12 years old. This tower, a temporary arrangement, was built to serve, but it has done so to no one's satisfaction. As a result, employee morale has fallen to the lowest of lows. Why was this so-called temporary facility not replaced when the new airport terminal was built, and when will it be replaced?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, it is so nice to be able to be pleasant. The problem was recognized and contracts were allocated on October 2. Work was begun on October 6. The price is \$284,000.

Mr. Kushner: Madam Speaker, I hope I am not being unreasonable. I appreciate that the minister has inherited this problem, but what I was referring to was not to the repair of the tower. My question was when the new tower will be built. I know there are tenders out to repair the tower now, but when will a new one be built?

Mr. Pepin: Madam Speaker, as I said, the problem was recognized. Working conditions were not good enough and the department is moving now in the way I have indicated. I think my hon. friend should not push his luck too much on a single day.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Nielsen: I thought you were nice all the time.

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ENERGY

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS ARCTIC PILOT PROJECT

Mr. Peter Ittinuar (Nunatsiaq): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I am tempted to ask him in Inuktitut, but his interests do not go that far.

Mr. Lalonde: Not my interest, my knowledge.

Mr. Ittinuar: My question concerns government advertising on energy and in particular on Arctic gas reserves and the Arctic pilot project. If government ads are designed to reflect current government policy, as was stated in the House yesterday, can we conclude that the Arctic pilot project is supported by this government? Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, it is not a lack of interest in Inuktitut; it is the lack of knowledge on my part that I regret.

Mr. Nielsen: So what's new?

Mr. Lalonde: With respect to the hon. member's question, the hon. member knows that the Arctic pilot project is sponsored by Petro-Canada and a group of other companies and that the project is before the National Energy Board. There will be hearings. The normal process will be followed. It is one project among others, the others including the possibility of a polar gas pipeline. All these projects will be examined by the appropriate government authorities before they are approved or rejected by the cabinet.

In the meantime, these are certainly encouraging developments when we see the large additional reserves of natural gas which have been found by the petroleum industry in the Arctic, and we hope also additional reserves of oil. The government is of course supportive of further exploration and further development of those resources in the north, to the benefit not only of other Canadians but also the residents of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Ittinuar: Madam Speaker, I cannot see how the government can reconcile its advertising with the environmental assessment review process and the upcoming National Energy Board hearing as well as the views of the northern peoples, who wish that these hearings would be conducted in earnest and without biased and supportive views from the government.

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, I think I have indicated that while the government indeed supports in principle exploration and development of resources in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, we want that process to take place having full respect for all the regulatory authorities which exist at the present time, whether they be the Department of the Environment or the National Energy Board. However, once we have said that, we say that we want all these developments to take place, but within the existing requirements which the various pieces of legislation passed by this Parliament imply. I think that is pretty simply to understand.

• (1140)

BANKRUPTCIES

ASTRA TRUST—RE-MOR—INQUIRY WHETHER CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE EXAMINED

Mr. Bill Kempling (Burlington): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. The minister will be aware of the bankruptcy of Astra Trust and its real estate affiliate, Re-Mor. Does he plan an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the bankruptcy in view of the substantial losses sustained by innocent investors and the allegations of fraud against the officers of Astra Trust and Re-Mor?