

Fuca, I would ask the minister if the government has had active discussions with the United States on the possibility of having all Alaskan oil delivered to points on the U.S. west coast south of Vancouver Island, where there are far fewer navigational hazards than in the Strait of Juan de Fuca?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is exactly the point we have made to the United States on many occasions.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): On a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Is the minister rising on a point of order?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): On a question of privilege with regard to the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker. I think it is only fair from my standpoint to indicate that the State Department had agreed to release the information on July 6, and it was only on July 9, when we found they had not released the clarification and, at their request, that we submitted the letter on July 10. It was our understanding that they would release that information on July 6, and it was only when we found out that they did not do it that we sent them further clarification.

● (1430)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps there might be some order. I realize the hon. member for Kootenay West has a supplementary, but perhaps the Chair might be allowed to recognize the hon. Leader of the Opposition first and then go to the hon. member for Kootenay West.

Mr. Stanfield: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, arising out of the remarks made by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I should like to point out that the normal way to communicate on a matter of such importance as this—

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): That is not a point of order.

Mr. Stanfield: It is as much a point of order as my hon. friend's question of privilege. I will be very brief and to the point. I just make the point that the whole procedure was sloppy and there was no follow-through, even assuming that what the minister says is correct. There was no follow-through at all.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I recognize that the hon. minister was rising on a point of debate in the same way as the hon. Leader of the Opposition. Perhaps we might now go to the hon. member for Kootenay West for a supplementary.

Mr. Harding: Mr. Speaker,—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Kootenay West has an interesting and relevant supplementary to ask.

Oral Questions

TAPS TANKER ROUTE—POSSIBLE DELIVERY OF OIL TO CHERRY POINT BY CANADIAN PIPELINE

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, my further supplementary is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. What has been the result of the talks for possible oil deliveries to the United States through other United States west coast ports or to the Cherry Point refinery in Washington by way of an existing Canadian pipeline?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said yesterday, and as my colleague, the Minister of the Environment has said on many occasions, it seems to us only to make sense that the Cherry Point refinery should be served from interior points and not from sea and that would meet our main problem.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I appreciate there are supplementaries from the hon. member for Victoria and other members. Perhaps for a change of pace the Chair might be allowed to recognize the hon. member for Bellechasse.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

CLOSING OF DAVIE SHIPBUILDING—ELIGIBILITY OF LAID-OFF EMPLOYEES FOR BENEFITS—REPRESENTATIONS OF COMMISSION

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Since a number of employees have become involuntarily unemployed as a result of the closing down of the Davie Shipbuilding yards in Lauzon, and that they are having a hard time obtaining benefits for that period of unemployment, can the minister tell the House whether he has received representations from the Unemployment Insurance Commission in this regard?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge I have not had direct representation but I will certainly consider the hon. member's representation today and see what can be done about it quickly.

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ENERGY

TAPS TANKER ROUTE—POSSIBLE ACTION TO REMEDY MISREPRESENTATION OF CANADIAN POSITION TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the almost unbelievable position in which we now find ourselves that the Canadian west coast is going to get a tanker route to which all west