

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Trudeau:** I think I can say that we are also working with the United Steel Workers of America.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** And we are working with the devil!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I did not finish, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** If the right hon. Prime Minister had not finished his answer, then I will allow the Prime Minister to finish his answer.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** So we have the policy that the pipeline can proceed in stages, provided we have the guarantee that that stage will be followed by the completion of the full pipeline. The sole purpose of the government at this time is to ascertain whether we have these guarantees or not. This is a judgment call. We are trying to get increasing evidence before—

**An hon. Member:** Bring it before Parliament.

**Mr. Trudeau:**—proceeding with this decision. The nature of that evidence, once again, will be a judgment by this government—hopefully, as I understand it now, supported by the Conservative opposition—that we have or do not have the sufficient guarantees. That will be the decision taken by cabinet, I believe, on Thursday of this week when we will be weighing the evidence to make a decision as to whether a pre-build will prevent the building of the whole thing or, on the contrary, will encourage it.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

ALASKA GAS PIPELINE PRE-BUILD SECTION—EFFECT ON ENERGY SECURITY

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Madam Speaker, I understand that ironclad commitments now have become judgment calls; that is a change. My question is directed to the Prime Minister and concerns the pre-build.

Last week, the Prime Minister said that the pre-build would not go ahead if it threatens Canada's future energy security; those were his words. Is the Prime Minister aware of a backstop agreement dated October 25, 1979, whereby Trans-Canada PipeLines Ltd. guaranteed that Canadian gas will flow through the eastern pre-build, actually, for 15 years if Alaskan gas is unavailable? Would he not agree that this agreement really is a threat to Canada's energy security?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member is quoting from a document of which I do not have any knowledge. I know the pre-build as presented to cabinet would be a scheme whereby there would

be a guarantee of some seven years' flow of gas, after which there would be absolutely no guarantee that Canadian gas continues to flow unless the whole thing has been built.

**Mr. Waddell:** Madam Speaker, may I respectfully suggest that before cabinet makes a decision, the Prime Minister should have a look at these documents? They are a matter of public record.

The backstop agreement means not just more exports of gas—which it means—more than the Prime Minister just said, but since they guaranteed the throughput, it could mean the bizarre situation that Canadian gas destined for Ontario may now have to go through the United States system and back to Ontario. That is bizarre. A government fell 25 years ago over that.

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Waddell:** In light of this report, the questions raised today and the statements the Prime Minister just made, is the Prime Minister prepared to have a special debate here in the House of Commons on the pre-build issue?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, of course I will make sure that the minister and the department are aware of the document to which the hon. member referred. If it is, as the hon. member said, a public document and not one which he just got privately from his capitalist friends, I am sure the minister has already seen it.

**An hon. Member:** Husky Oil.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I just do not happen to have the answer myself. All I can tell the hon. member is that any undertaking made by the government will not be bound by some private hopes or aspirations of friends of the hon. member.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

POLICY RESPECTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NEUTRON BOMB

**Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Madam Speaker, my question is also to the Prime Minister, but on a different subject. Yesterday, on the television program "Question Period", the Minister of National Defence stated a major change in Canada's defence policy with regard to nuclear weapons and the neutron bomb. The minister stated:

I think we have to prove ourselves maybe a little bit wiser to build up a kind of deterrent, and the deterrent at the moment is not our tanks, our navy or our planes. I think the deterrent now is to try to find sophisticated weapons like nuclear weapons.

He went on to name the French neutron bomb as an example. Will the Prime Minister tell the House whether the minister was expressing government policy when he advocated the development and deployment of neutron weapons?