

conomic burden that this unemployment situation is placing on the provinces which have to pick up these welfare payments, especially the poorer provinces which can least afford it?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, first thing tomorrow morning I will be joining my colleagues the provincial finance ministers for a two-day meeting. Among the items under consideration will be the short term economic conditions. I intend to discuss this problem with them as I did last October and if solutions can be found and suggested quickly, we will do so. However, the situation is difficult and I must report to the House that last fall before making my statement in the House, I had obtained the agreement of all finance ministers. We will try once again tomorrow to develop a consensus to try to tackle all economic problems which are confronting us.

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● (1427)

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

NORTHERN PIPELINE—HOLDING OF INQUIRY INTO OPERATION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): I would remind the Minister of Finance that in the fall of 1929 Mr. Herbert Hoover also had the support of all the bankers in the United States. My question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. No, Mr. Speaker, I will change my mind and address it to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Considering that the hon. gentleman's predecessor said on April 19, "If the Alaska Highway application should receive approval, the government will establish a further inquiry to assist in developing terms and conditions for the construction and operation of the line", and considering that representatives of the Council of Yukon Indians have charged that the government has completely failed to implement this commitment to hold a follow-up public inquiry, can the minister clarify the situation, and will he take immediate steps to implement the commitment to which I have referred?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): No, I will not, Mr. Speaker. No decision has been taken on a further inquiry. In consultation with the Council of Yukon Indians and others I have raised the question of whether a further inquiry is really needed. The Lysyk inquiry went to some lengths in defining what would be contained in the terms and conditions, and I have made the point, both publicly and in private meetings, that in my view we really need to define the terms and conditions and make them available to the agency that will eventually flow from legislation and have them available for public discussion. In other words what I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is what we need now are precise proposals, rather than further inquiries. I say this while repeating that no decision has been taken; I am just telling the House what my thinking is now.

Oral Questions

Mr. Broadbent: I take it that the minister's refusal to guarantee—

Mr. Faulkner: No decision has been made.

Mr. Broadbent: Saying there has been no decision implies a reversal of the previous decision. The previous decision was that there would be an inquiry. The position now taken is contrary to the commitment which was made.

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INDUSTRY

NORTHERN PIPELINE—SALE OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT TO UNITED STATES AND NOT CANADA

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): I should like to address a question to the Deputy Prime Minister. Is the hon. gentleman aware that the U.S. Alyeska Pipeline Disposal Company has for sale pipeline construction equipment worth between \$1 billion and \$1.5 billion which could service the entire Canadian section of the Alcan pipeline, and that this equipment is scheduled to go on sale not in Canada but in the United States? In this regard I ask the minister what specific guarantees have been provided to ensure that Canadian companies and Canadian workers will be used in the construction of the Canadian portion of the pipeline?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): I appreciate the hon. member providing this interesting information. Undoubtedly, he has gleaned it from the *Wall Street Journal*, which I have not had an opportunity to peruse recently. However, I will follow the hon. member as he leads me through the pages of the *Wall Street Journal* from day to day.

As to the second part of the question, which relates to the over-all opportunity for Canadian participation both in employment and in the provision of goods and services for the construction of the line, I repeat what has already been stated by the Prime Minister, that Canadian business and Canadian producers will have a full opportunity to participate—effectively, we believe—in the construction of this line. The estimated number of jobs to which the hon. member referred yesterday or the day before is still valid. It is our view that 100,000 man-years can be expected in Canada during the construction of this line. There is no withdrawal from the estimate put forward last September when the terms of the agreement were made public.

● (1432)

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, whatever one might say about the reliability of the *Wall Street Journal*, by standards of comparison of reliability it is 100 per cent better than the minister. I have a final supplementary for the minister since he did not answer my second question after attempting to do so for two minutes.

Are there any specific guarantees respecting the construction aspect of the job? I am not referring to steel, because we