

Oral Questions

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, first I would like to tell the right hon. gentleman that I have great respect for the Queen. I am a veteran. I fought for several years in England with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lamontagne: Having said that, I can assure the right hon. member that if there is any shortage of stamps bearing a picture of the Queen, it is strictly a question of accidental shortage and I am sure there is nothing in the Post Office which prevents any post office from selling these stamps. I will see that they have them in every post office across the land.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to the minister's wonderful record overseas. I will come a little closer to home. Why is it that on December 19, today—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, are there some loons loose? It is music to my ears to hear the suckers roar.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I want to ask the minister a simple question. On this very date, neither in the House of Commons post office nor in the Senate post office can one purchase any stamps with the Queen's head thereon. Why is that? I asked specifically for them and I was told there were none. Was that coincidence?

Mr. Lamontagne: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the right hon. gentleman that the post office in the House of Commons is not under the jurisdiction of the Post Office Department: it is completely independent. If stamps or postal equipment are required, they have to request them. If they request them, I will see that the House of Commons post office gets them by tomorrow morning.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is fine.

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NORTHERN PIPELINE**SUPPLIERS OF STEEL PIPE**

Mr. Ross Milne (Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Deputy Prime Minister. I understand that two Canadian companies, Stelco and Ipsco, have been selected to negotiate with Foothills to supply steel pipe for the Alaska pipeline. Does this mean that those companies were the lowest bidders, and does the Deputy Prime Minister feel that they would have a good chance of bidding successfully on the Alaska section of the pipeline?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, we said often in the

course of the debate on the creation of the Northern Pipeline Agency that Canadian firms could compete successfully for the supply of pipe on the Canadian portion of the line. We also maintained, despite the criticisms we received from the opposition—and today, of course, our judgment has been confirmed by the opening of these negotiations with the two Canadian companies for the supply of 1.5 millions tons of pipe—that we believe the competitive edge shown by these Canadians companies will be in play in securing business on the American portion of the line.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS**BROADENING OF COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister in his capacity as government House leader.

In light of public concern about the growth in the number of regulations in Canada which have some adverse effect—which was admitted by the first ministers at their conference last February—and having in mind a unanimous motion passed by the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments dealing with this issue, will the Deputy Prime Minister consult with his counterparts, the other House leaders, with regard to consideration of a motion to give extended terms of reference to that committee in order to deal with this very important question?

I ask this question because of the fact that when this parliament grants delegated authority, it should retain some means of exercising supervision over the way that authority is utilized.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I read the report of the joint committee of which the hon. member is a co-chairman, and I noted the recommendations which were made and which now have been repeated by the hon. member.

I would like to undertake to raise the question of extending or widening the reference of the committee with other party representatives and with my colleagues with a view to meeting, if possible, the views of the standing committee.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR TO TAIWAN**

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I had intended to address my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

An hon. Member: He is here. Wait for him.