

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

BARBADOS—INCREASE IN CANADIAN AID

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a question.

Could he tell the House whether he intends to increase substantially in the next two years Canadian aid to Barbados according to a statement made recently by Senator Richard Stanbury, chairman of the Liberal Federation?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I have not seen the statement made by the hon. member of the other House.

[Translation]

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question.

Could the minister tell us if the government intends to grant additional assistance to needy Canadians through exemption of any direct taxation for low-income people?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question is very interesting, but he puts it as a suggestion. He must take it for granted that it will be considered by the government.

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[English]

OIL

PROPOSED TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM—MACKENZIE VALLEY ROUTE—CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I should like to direct my question either to the Acting Prime Minister or to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Yesterday the Secretary of State for External Affairs stated that no decision had been made by the United States authorities in reference to the pipeline from the rich Alaska northern slopes to Valdez. In view of the fact that a consortium of companies in the United States has already stockpiled pipe for the building of such a pipeline, is the minister aware of that and is he now aware of the decision made by U.S. government authorities to build such a pipeline in view of the stockpile?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. It may be that there are such stockpiles; I do not disagree with that. I do know that no decision has been made. I would like to tell the House that the United States Secretary of State has indicated to me that he now agrees to enter into consultations with us on this question. I am sure he would not have done so if a decision had already been made.

Mr. Woolliams: I appreciate that answer, Mr. Speaker. In light of the answer, can the Acting Prime Minister say whether the Canadian government has made up its own mind as to which transportation route would be the best in Canada's national interest, that is, down the Macken-

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zie delta or to the port of Valdez and then by tanker to the United States? What is Canada's position and how did the government arrive at it?

Mr. Sharp: I thought the hon. gentleman would have learned by now from the repetitive statements I have made in the House that the Canadian government feels there is a very serious risk in the movement of oil by tanker down the Pacific coast, and it would not be in the interest of either of our two countries.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the minister's statements in that regard, but does the government then endorse the building of a pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley and through the Prairies to the industrial centres of the United States?

Mr. Sharp: I am sure that as a member from Alberta he would wish me to be in as strong a bargaining position as possible in relation to the United States, and to ensure that if an application is made it is one that meets our requirements and not only those of the United States.

Mr. Woolliams: What is your requirement?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member in a moment, but hon. members must realize that there has to be some limit on supplementary questions if we are going to give opportunities to other hon. members to ask their questions. I notice a number of hon. members to my left who tried to ask questions yesterday, and I am rather anxious to give them an opportunity today. So I will have to seek the co-operation of the front-benchers at the start of the question period.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I agree that probably we ask too many supplementary questions, but the minister will not answer. There are only two possible routes, either by tanker or by pipeline. Why does he not say which position the government is taking?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Sharp: I have tried to be as clear and as firm in my answer as is possible at present. I hope the hon. gentleman agrees with me that if we are going to agree to the building of a pipeline down the Mackenzie we should meet the requirements of the ecology. I hope we can meet our economic requirements and I hope we will have to give up as little as possible. If he does not agree with that, he should say so.

PROPOSED TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM—CONSULTATIONS WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): I want to ask the minister a supplementary question. Can he give any indication as to when consultations with United States authorities may be held?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I would think this would take place as soon as it is convenient to both sides. I expect it will start very soon.