

or three foreign companies with a view to enhancing Canadian ownership in that sector.

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[English]

#### CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

EXPENDITURE ON PROPOSED TERMINAL AT PRINCE RUPERT,  
B.C.

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Madam Speaker, in view of the fact that apparently the Minister of Agriculture has either forsaken the farmer or does not understand economics, I should like to ask a question of the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. The Minister of Agriculture stated that farm income is up and he thereby equated it with increased net income, which is not the case because net farm income is down.

Could the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board tell the House about, or table the details of, the \$100 million expenditure by the Canadian Wheat Board for the Prince Rupert terminal?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, the Prince Rupert terminal will be the creation of a consortium in which a number of companies and pools are taking part. The federal government is contributing to it by way of a \$22 million appropriation for facilities. I really do not see what is the issue because my information is that all of this is being processed now in a very satisfactory fashion.

**Mr. Towers:** Madam Speaker, I just cannot understand how a member of cabinet fails to realize that there has been a suggestion by the Canadian Wheat Board that it will spend \$100 million of grain growers' money, money which they cannot afford because of the programs of the Minister of Agriculture. Could the minister tell us what this money will be used for and how it will be expended?

**Mr. Pepin:** Madam Speaker, my information is that the Canadian Wheat Board is not a member of the consortium at Prince Rupert. Occasionally I have seen reference to the need for surge capacity, but no decision has been made on that particular issue.

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ALICE ARM, B.C.—GRANT OF DUMPING PERMIT TO AMAX—  
REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO CIRCUMSTANCES

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. I am sure the minister is aware of the special dumping permit of Amax Limited which has been given to no other mine in Canada. It was granted during the 1979 federal election, unknown to the House. Until September 12, 1980, John Aird was on the board of Amax. On September 15, 1980,

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he became the lieutenant-governor of Ontario. His connections with the federal Liberal party are well-known.

Was there any direct or indirect communication of any kind between John Aird and members of cabinet or their staff regarding the permit for Amax Limited at Alice Arm?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I have no knowledge of that, and I will make inquiries.

**Mr. Fulton:** Madam Speaker, yesterday in Vancouver the Nishga leaders, along with Archbishop Edward Scott, met with Amax. Church leaders in Canada, including Bishop Remi De Roo and the archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada representing millions of Canadians, the British Columbia Federation of Labour, the Building Trades Council and the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union representing affected workers, along with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, are on record now as supporting a review, including a public inquiry. We in this House have been stalled since April of last year.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister rise in his place on this occasion and show some leadership by calling for a public inquiry? If not, will he inform members of the House and millions of Canadians that he will make an announcement in the House next week regarding a full public inquiry?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Madam Speaker, I will have the representations of the hon. member considered and will give him an answer as soon as possible.

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#### PETRO-CANADA

STATEMENT OF OFFICIAL ON OFFSHORE OIL PRODUCTION

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Madam Speaker, will the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources be kind enough to assist me in what appears to be an anomaly? I understood him to say, in answer to a question from my colleague, that it was premature to set a price for oil production on the east coast. Yesterday it was interesting to see one of the officials of Petro-Canada, the group vice-president for the east coast, reported as saying the following:

—the oil industry needs to know what the price of the oil is going to be before offshore production can proceed. There is no point in the government saying to the oil industry: "Go find the oil, and then we will decide what the price will be." That's totally backwards.

He went on to say:

A price needs to be set that will be close to or at world price if we are going to see these extremely expensive offshore developments take place.

Has the minister of energy been in touch with Petro-Canada? What is the basis for this apparent disagreement between the government's petroleum corporation and his own statements in the House?