

together in a co-ordinated fashion to ensure that any approach we take is the most effective.

I can just add, Mr. Speaker—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Miss Carney:—at no time has Premier Devine or anyone else asked for a floor price for oil.

HUSKY HEAVY OIL UPGRADER PROJECT

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Recognizing that the agreement signed yesterday on the Husky upgrader should be applauded by all Members in the House, when will the final decision for the construction of the project be taken? What is the time frame, and what is the target date?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues in the Alberta caucus for their strong support and their many recommendations to me both in the matter of the Husky upgrader and energy policy.

We will make the decision on the construction phase of the Husky upgrader later this fall when, hopefully, the oil pricing situation is clarified.

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● (1450)

AIRPORTS

ST. JOHN'S NFLD.—FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO HANDLE AIR CANADA INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, Air Canada has informed the Departments of Immigration, Customs and Excise, and Transport that in order to meet existing regulations Air Canada will have to off-load, in stages, Newfoundland-bound passengers from its international flights because a security area big enough does not exist at St. John's airport to handle even the domestic travellers at peak periods.

Why did the Minister inform the President of Air Canada on March 26 that the space and facilities are available at St. John's airport when Air Canada says that they are not? Or was the Minister talking about the great outdoors?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, on the basis of the anticipated passenger traffic, the Minister of National Revenue has indicated that there are adequate facilities to handle that traffic. The Hon. Member is talking about planeloads of 200 to 230 passengers when, in fact, Air Canada is talking about planeloads of anywhere from 60 to 120 passengers.

Oral Questions

OBJECTIONS TO TRANSFER OF FLIGHTS FROM GANDER

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, because there is no adequate security area, over 200 passengers on a L-1011 using this service, because of fog or mechanical problems, would be held captive aboard the aircraft.

Will the Minister confirm or deny—and he'd better not deny it—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker:—the existence of a policy letter dated December 17 from Customs and Immigration to the Minister's Department which lists serious objections to the transfer of flights to St. John's? Will he explain to the House how he can ignore serious objections such as this?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as I said to the Hon. Member yesterday, I did consult with my Cabinet colleagues, the Minister of National Revenue, the Minister of Agriculture, and the Minister of Immigration, and all three Ministers responded in the affirmative that accommodation could be made. That is the letter that stands, not the letter to which the Hon. Member refers.

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ENERGY

REQUEST FOR OIL PRICE STABILIZATION PLAN

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister will be well aware that unless some immediate action is taken, eventually the only players left in the Western Basin will be the large integrated multinational oil companies. What action has the Minister taken other than a study of the situation in order to respond to the request by the 100 Canadian independents who have asked for a price stabilization plan?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, we have already taken significant and historic action in the signing of the Western Accord with the provinces, which removed billions of dollars of taxload from the very producers about which the Hon. Member speaks. I would like to remind the House that under the Liberal program there were about 530 companies paying the PGRT. Only 70 companies are now left paying this tax. That is what we have done for the oil and gas industry.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary question.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, the Minister and the Government will know that unless some action is taken we will see literally thousands of jobs lost in the oil industry alone in western Canada. Last night we found out that we will be hammering