

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the question is hypothetical in its form—"if the pipeline goes ahead". I can assure the hon. member it will not go ahead if it jeopardizes Canada's energy future.

**Mr. Waddell:** This is precisely what the minister was saying before he turned Judas on us, when he was in the opposition.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

● (1425)

**Mr. Waddell:** The minister has said, as the member from Calgary pointed out, that we should not export this gas for a fast buck. The minister also said, to use his words, that there should be an ironclad guarantee before the pipeline goes ahead.

Could the minister tell this House, now, with a straight face, whether he considers those events and assurances in Washington, the resolutions and the 2 per cent investment by the company in the pipeline, were enough to live up to the test that he set out when he was the opposition critic?

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** The iron has turned to butter.

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, the steps taken by the American Congress, as well as the steps announced by the administration and those taken by the private sector, both the sponsors and the producers, are all matters that are before the cabinet and are going to be considered before any decision is made. If and when a decision is made, the hon. member will be apprised of it; I am sure of that.

\* \* \*

## ENERGY

### CONSTRUCTION OF NORMAN WELLS-ZAMA LAKE OIL PIPELINE

**Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It would appear that the National Energy Board decision on the proposed Norman Wells-Zama Lake oil pipeline will not be handed down until later on, perhaps toward the end of this year.

In view of the fact that this line will carry some 25,000 barrels of oil a day to replace oil presently imported from offshore countries and at a cost exceeding the domestic price, will the minister assure this House that, assuming the National Energy Board finds the line to be a public necessity and convenience and that the federal environmental assessment and review panel does the same, the government will give quick endorsement to the construction of the line?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Madam Speaker, if I may answer

that question, we will have to wait for the decision of the National Energy Board and also for the results of the environmental hearing before the matter will come to the government for final determination. It is premature to make a decision at this time.

**Mr. Neil:** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Assuming approval is given by the National Energy Board and by the environmental assessment and review panel, will the minister assure this House that he and the government will not support any moratorium on the construction of the line?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Madam Speaker, there are further representations to be heard from the native organizations in the Northwest Territories and the territorial government. To give a firm and hard decision at this time, before some of the representations which they wish to make to the government through myself, is really not giving them a fair chance to present their views. Therefore, I think any decision should be withheld, as I say, until they have that chance.

### LACK OF OIL PRICING AGREEMENT—EFFECT ON DRILLING ACTIVITY IN CANADA

**Mr. Len. Gustafson (Assiniboia):** Madam Speaker, my question arises from that posed by one of my constituents who is concerned about employment in the oil industry. Therefore, I direct my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Is the government aware that drilling activity is slackening off significantly in Canada and moving to the United States of America, which seems to be a repeat of what was experienced in Canada in 1973? The cause seems to be related directly to the government's indecision with regard to the oil pricing agreement. Is the minister aware of this very serious situation that exists in Canada today?

**An hon. Member:** Of course not.

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, the latest report I have seen is that drilling is up—specifically, up 30 per cent compared to the same period when the Conservatives were in office last year.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** That was a dreadful answer.

**Mr. Gustafson:** Madam Speaker, it is true there are more rigs. According to the latest figures I have, for July 2, there were 535 rigs drilling in Alberta, Saskatchewan, B.C., the Northwest Territories, the Arctic and Manitoba; but there are 123 rigs down and not turning. However, in Saskatchewan there are 46 rigs turning, while in Williston, North Dakota—a small town—there are 151 rigs turning.