

*Oral Questions***ENERGY**

FUTURE OF ALSANDS PROJECT AT FORT McMURRAY, ALTA.

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I will wait until he gets back, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Lalonde: Go ahead.

Mr. Shields: I am sure that the minister has probably been able to inform himself and has come to the conclusion that the postponement of the Imperial project in Cold Lake will mean a two-year delay. What efforts and initiatives is the minister taking, or does he plan to take, to ensure that the Alsands consortium does not cancel their project in Fort McMurray, which is another \$12 billion project for this country?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, Mr. Leitch, the minister of energy for Alberta, and myself are due to meet in a few weeks. I hope that we will continue to make progress.

As the hon. member knows, the government of Alberta had taken a position that it did not want to discuss a separate deal for tar sands plants independently from a settlement on all the other issues. We will try to work along that line so as to arrive at a global settlement as soon as possible.

● (1450)

I have tried twice to see whether it was possible to arrive at an arrangement, to have an agreement on pricing, etc., which would deal with the tar sands plants but this is something the government of Alberta has refused. Therefore, we will try to work along the lines of getting a comprehensive settlement.

POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH OIL COMPANIES

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Madam Speaker, there have been 16 months of failures, 16 months for this government to sit down and reach an agreement with the government of Alberta. Over and above that, I am sure the minister would agree that a commercial arrangement with the companies allowing them to see a profitable investment climate for themselves is the kind of thing that is required. Therefore, is the minister addressing himself to a commercial arrangement with the companies? Syncrude has cancelled its expansion. Cold Lake has postponed its construction, and Alsands has indicated it may follow suit. Is a commercial arrangement being negotiated? Without such an arrangement every major project in northeastern Alberta is being affected.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, the hon. member refers to 16 months of failure. But he should also add all the other months when his party was in office when it could not reach an agreement either.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Wrong again.

Mr. Clark: That is a falsehood.

Mr. Lalonde: So, the period is even longer, and that we regret. I am sure that government when it was in office did its best to get an agreement, but it did not get one.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: We had an agreement.

Mr. Trudeau: Why don't you produce it?

Mr. Lalonde: So we tried.

As far as the question of arriving at a satisfactory commercial arrangement is concerned, this is what we are negotiating with the government of Alberta at the present time.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EL SALVADOR—ARCHBISHOP'S STATEMENT CONDEMNING
ARMY ACTIONS

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs my question is for the Prime Minister. Perhaps I could have the attention of the Prime Minister?

An hon. Member: It is the guy over there with the flower.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rose: My question is for the Prime Minister, who is well known for his interest in North-South problems. It concerns the tragedy of El Salvador. Is the Canadian government aware of the news yesterday from El Salvador in which the country's leading churchman, Archbishop Arturo Revere y Damas, attacked the army for "crimes against the church", including the murder of 27 additional civilians and the beating of nuns? Under the circumstances, how does the Canadian government justify its continued support for the current regime?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I think the statements made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs on this subject have been quite clear. He has mentioned before in so far as the problem with El Salvador is concerned that the people themselves should settle their own problems in a political way, and that we do not want to be involved in such matters as those which the hon. member has just mentioned. We are aware of what is going on. I presume the question could be discussed further with the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

SHIPMENTS OF UNITED STATES ARMS

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, if the "can't fly minister of the F-18A fame" is going to be the prime minister, I suggest he wear a rose in his lapel.