

undertake the task during the summer tourist season. We are asking for additional scientific advice as to the best method of doing the job and the best time at which to do it. As well, if this has not already been done, an underwater investigation of the hull will be made to ensure that there is no potential for leakage during the interim.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Bearing in mind the considerable delay which has occurred in resolving this problem, would the minister care to make a statement on motions concerning the government's plans, in face of the continuing pollution threat to the island? What steps will be taken in the course of the next few months to prevent any possible danger from the continued presence of the *Irving Whale* near the shores of Prince Edward Island?

Mr. Jamieson: I would be glad to consider doing so either here or when I appear before the transport committee. But I can assure the hon. member that all the ongoing checks we are making indicate there is no immediate threat. We shall certainly keep policing the situation to make sure that this continues to be the case.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Charlevoix had a supplementary question a moment ago. Perhaps he has forgotten what it was, but I am prepared to recognize him now.

Mr. Asselin: Mr. Speaker, I pass.

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[English]

OIL

PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—CANADIAN REPRESENTATIONS TO U.S. CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the growing concern in connection with the potentially disastrous tanker route down the British Columbia coast, and the fact that the economic committee of the United States Congress is planning hearings on the proposed trans-Atlantic pipeline through Canada, may I inquire what representations Canada will make at these hearings?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member means trans-Alaska pipeline rather than trans-Atlantic pipeline. The government would not propose, of course, to make any representations before a legislative body of another jurisdiction. I might say, however, that I have recently been in communication with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to give him further information with regard to the Canadian proposal for a Mackenzie Valley pipeline, and to reiterate our concern about possible damage to the west coast of Canada consequent upon any approval of a Pacific tanker route.

Mr. Thompson: What does the government intend to do to speed up our own hearings so that we may know what we are talking about when we speak about building a Mackenzie Valley pipeline?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I have pointed out several times in the House that we feel it would be desirable for us to know all the consequences of the impact upon the environment, as well as upon the oil economy, of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline. Studies to the tune of \$15 million have been undertaken and the National Energy Board and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will be in a position by the end of the year to pass judgment on any applications which might be made for a pipeline permit. I think I should reiterate what I said to the committee, that if anyone has a concrete proposal to make he should put it forward to my colleague, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Mr. Baldwin: Call an election; that would speed things up.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): There's the big mouth. There's the natural gas, over there.

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SHIPPING

SINKING OF TUGBOAT "HARO STRAITS"—INITIATION OF OFFICIAL INQUIRY—POSSIBLE RAISING OF VESSEL

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Some weeks ago the minister indicated his intention of ordering an official inquiry into the sinking of the tugboat *Haro Straits*. I ask the minister whether such an inquiry has been launched, who are the personnel of the body undertaking the investigation, and when does the minister expect a report?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I apologize to the hon. member for the half answer I am about to give. I believe the formal papers setting up the commission have been signed but I am not absolutely certain. If there is a delay, it is in securing personnel. This will be done within a day or two; and I will certainly advise the hon. member accordingly.

Mr. Douglas: May I ask the minister whether he has made a decision with respect to raising the tug, as he has been requested to do, with a view to recovering the bodies of the crew and trying to ascertain from the state of the tug the cause of its sinking?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have indicated that part of the inquiry should involve at least an attempt to raise the tug. There are apparently some technical problems. If these can be overcome, it will be done.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—USE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR PROJECTS INITIALLY REFUSED

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, I would direct my question to the Prime Minister.