

Oral Questions

ENERGY

PROPOSED TANKER ROUTE FOR ALASKAN OIL—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and goes back to the series of questions asked by the hon. member for Don Valley regarding the negotiations, conversations or whatever they were concerning a pipeline for gas and oil. I am wondering whether discussions are taking place in the context of an either/or proposition, or whether we are still faced with tanker routes and pipelines.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, there are two sets of discussions underway, one set leading to the conclusion of a general pipeline treaty and a second set on general energy questions, including the matter that is of such great interest to the hon. gentleman and other residents of Victoria and Vancouver, namely finding some alternative means of moving Alaskan oil into the northwest United States market other than by heavy tanker through Puget Sound. This question is being discussed but at the moment there is nothing fresh to report.

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AGRICULTURE

INCREASE IN FERTILIZER PRICES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO COUNTERACT

Mr. John Wise (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs perhaps my question should more appropriately be directed to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of a recent article that appeared in the *Globe and Mail* on March 13 to the effect that the Canadian Fertilizer Institute will not issue a detailed report justifying the rapid increases in fertilizer prices, some of which have doubled in the past two years, what action, if any, does the minister intend to take in this regard?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, some action has already been taken and has been underway for some time. Investigations are being conducted at the present time under the Combines Investigation Act in respect of fertilizer companies. We intend to table or make public the facts we have gathered through our programs concerning the state of fertilizer prices. Depending on the findings that result from our efforts concerning the prices of fertilizer we will consider what other action can be taken. If the legislation of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs were passed we could take some really definite action in respect of holding and rolling back prices.

[Mr. Whelan.]

● (1500)

NATIONAL PARKS

JUSTIFICATION FOR INCREASE IN FEES—INQUIRY WHETHER INCREASE APPLIES TO ALL PARKS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in his capacity as the minister responsible for national parks. In light of the fact that national parks were created for the preservation of our natural environment and for the use of people today as well as future generations, what justification does the minister's department have for increasing the fees by 500 per cent? Does this increase apply only to western parks?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, to answer the questions in reverse order, the fee changes apply to parks throughout Canada, with the exception of Prince Edward Island where we have a complicated problem in that we are in the process of acquiring additional buffer land around the park which would mean relocating the park gates. With that exception the fee changes apply to all Canada. Secondly, this is the first fee change we have had in 40 years, and it represents a very minimal part of our total park costs.

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CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

PURPOSE IN ESTABLISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice who is responsible for the Wheat Board whether the basic principle in establishing the advisory committee that is to be elected in April is to give new thought and a firm voice to the Canadian Wheat Board?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the purpose of going through an election process in respect of the Canadian Wheat Board advisory committee is to allow permit holders to have on the advisory committee the persons of their choice.

Mr. Malone: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the position the hon. minister in charge of the Wheat Board has taken, but I think there is real concern in so far as names like A.M. Runciman, President of the United Grain Growers and—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member has a supplementary question he ought to put it forthwith.

Mr. Malone: Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of people being put forward for the election to be held in two or three weeks who are not farming people but who are spending a tremendous amount of money on the election, and I am wondering if there is any regulation to make sure that the minister's stated principle is accomplished?