

Northern Pipeline

Mr. MacEachen: It is subject to the approval of the minister through the procurement plan. It will be sent back if there is any reason to believe there is any dumping, any subsidy or unfair competition. That is provided for within this bill. There is also, and I think this is important, the procurement plan. Before this is approved we will know where all this material is to come from and then we will have to say yes or no. That seems to me to be the kind of effective control the hon. member wants, and I believe when he gets to the committee he will agree with me.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blackburn: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Earlier this afternoon I intervened and asked the Deputy Prime Minister whether he would entertain a question and he indicated at that time he would at the end of his speech. My question really is non-partisan and of a non-political nature.

An hon. Member: I am sure.

Mr. Blackburn: Yes, it is. Just wait a minute. We and the Deputy Prime Minister have been talking about job creation in the Yukon. What I would like to hear from the Deputy Prime Minister is what measures, if any, are contained in this bill, or what measures will the government entertain in respect of the pre-training of natives—that is, native born Yukoners and non-native born, including Inuits, Indians, whites and so on—to ensure that these men and women will be able to compete with those from outside the Yukon for the jobs that will be available when this pipeline is being built.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, on the question of hiring of Yukoners and of their training, there is an undertaking by Foothills that it will give preference to northern workmen. That is one of the undertakings it has given, and that must be lived up to. One of the direct costs that may be associated with the pipeline is the cost of training which the company will have to bear. We expect that the Department of Employment and Immigration and Foothills will undertake whatever training is required so that the maximum advantage can be taken in respect of this project by the residents of the Yukon.

It is further my understanding that it will not be possible for people just to wander into the Yukon unless they get pre-clearance in the south. The hiring arrangements will be controlled in that way.

Mr. Leggatt: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Since the Deputy Prime Minister is being so co-operative, in view of the continuing assurance we have from the minister about the competitiveness of Canadian industry, and the assurance from the industry itself that it is competitive, will the minister bring the House into his confidence by advising us what percentage of the Alaska oil pipeline was constructed by Canadian contractors, and what percentage of Canadian steel was used in that pipeline which was subject to the same open bidding he has suggested for the gas pipeline?

Some hon. Members: Order.

[Mr. MacEachen.]

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I do not have those statistics. I am sure the hon. member has them. It may be that Canada did not get the business, and I do not know the reasons. I do know in respect of this line to be built in Canada that my confidence remains unshaken as to the ability of Canadian industry and Canadian workmen to bid. I should add that I was really quite heartened in that when we made the announcement of the 56-inch pipe the president of Stelco said: "We can get this business".

An hon. Member: He didn't say that.

Mr. MacEachen: The national director of the 185,000-member United Steelworkers Union, rather, when told of the board's ruling, said "That's good... I think it is a wise decision". The union leader said that the Canadian steel industry is quite competitive and Canadian mills may also be able to get some of the American section of the \$10-billion pipeline to bring natural gas from Alaska to U.S. markets.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacEachen: You cannot blame me for saying we can get the business when the national director of the steelworkers union says that, in his view we can get the Canadian business and part of the American line. I say, more power to him. I wish he were an active member of the NDP and would support this legislation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): I will recognize the hon. member for Yukon on a point of order, but let me suggest we are now getting into questions, and questions can be asked at the committee stage.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, I have one very brief question for the minister. Perhaps I might assist in regard to the question which was advanced by the hon. member for Brant by saying that AGTL has had a training program underway for the past six years, training northern native Yukoners to take over operational positions on the pipeline. The government has been slow and has nothing in place as yet.

The minister mentioned in his remarks that he made a better deal with the United States in connection with the tax revenues that will accrue as a result of the construction of the pipeline in the Yukon. Pipelines are normally taxed, somewhat higher than would be the case in the provinces. Because of this these tax revenues would be accrued anyway. The \$200 million for the heritage fund, however, was something that Lysyk recommended, and something the NEB recommended should be in addition to these tax revenues. How does the minister explain the loss of that heritage fund of \$200 million in face of the fact that the tax revenues are something to be expected in any event?

Mr. MacEachen: No, Mr. Speaker, it was not a question of "in any event". It was a question of negotiating this particular tax arrangement as a substitution for negotiating the \$200 million suggested by the National Energy Board, or the \$200 million suggested by Lysyk. This was a substitution, and the