

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, it would obviously be premature for me to make any such commitment or comment.

* * *

POST OFFICE

RESUMPTION OF MAIL SERVICE WITH UNITED KINGDOM

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. In view of the importance of the post office in the games people play could the Postmaster General inform the House and the people of Canada when we might expect resumption of mail service with the United Kingdom?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister without Portfolio): I will look into that, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

ENERGY

INQUIRY AS TO STATEMENT ON POLICY—PRESENTATION PRIOR TO DECISION ON MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. When can we expect a statement in the House on Canada's energy policy?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think I make many statements in the House on Canada's energy policy. I will try to make them more lucid so my hon. friend can comprehend them.

Mr. Harding: Will this government policy be presented to Members of Parliament and the Canadian people for discussion before any decision is made concerning a possible pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any necessary correlation between any pervasive or new statement on energy policy and a decision in respect of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

POSSIBLE MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—ECOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources inform the House whether his statement of March 3, in the House that the National Energy Board will be conducting the ecological survey of this pipeline is correct or whether the department of the environment under another minister will be conducting such a survey?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think the guidelines issued by myself and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in August of last year make this very clear. The ecological issue is one thing that is inherent in any application before the National Energy Board, but

Inquiries of the Ministry

because the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has special authority over the northern territory that department too will have a responsibility in respect of the ecological safety of the pipeline if built.

POSSIBLE MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—CONSULTATION WITH PEOPLE OF YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Mr. Eric Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, will the relevant departments be consulting with the people most concerned through their elected representatives, namely the councillors of the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): That is a responsibility which would fall under my colleague the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, but certainly in the guidelines issued by the two departments it is envisaged, and I think stated very clearly, that the rights and well-being of the indigenous people would be one of the prime considerations.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the minister said he has made many statements on this and indeed, on other subjects, will he inform the House which of these many conflicting statements is government policy?

* * *

THE SENATE

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF HON. JOHN ROBERTS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister, but first of all I should like to take this opportunity to welcome him to membership in the husbands' union. On December 28 the Prime Minister stated to the press that he intended to give consideration to the possibility of appointing the Hon. John Roberts to the Senate of Canada. Has he had a chance to consider that matter in recent weeks along with other important matters he has had on his mind, and can we expect an announcement in the near future?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I must confess my mind was on other matters in recent weeks. When it comes to joining a union the only one I would want to commit myself to now is the union with my wife.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

TRANSPORT

TRANSFER OF SHIP FROM PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FERRY SERVICE TO SYDNEY-NEWFOUNDLAND ROUTE

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Can the