

Alaska pipeline proposal, and in view of the fact the premier of British Columbia is due to meet with representatives of the United States government in Washington, D.C. on March 9 to oppose the tanker route, can the right hon. Prime Minister today tell the House whether the joint Canada-U.S. committee set up last spring to consider joint control of the tanker route has in fact met and, if so, has that committee reported to the governments of Canada and the United States?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, I do not have the answer to this. I took note of the question the other day and referred it to both the Secretary of State for External Affairs and to the Minister of the Environment to see who could provide an answer.

Mr. Fraser: I thank the right hon. Prime Minister for his answer and I direct the same question to the Minister of the Environment. I might point out that this is the third week that this question has been asked.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I will be meeting shortly with Mr. Russell Train, U.S. presidential adviser on the environment, regarding west coast tankers and related matters.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, this is the third Friday this matter has been raised and it may become a weekly event. This is the most elusive committee I have ever known. I wish to ask a supplementary question of the Prime Minister. Can he tell the House whether the government is sending a representative with the premier of British Columbia in order to show the federal government's support of the opposition of that province to the tanker route?

Mr. Trudeau: We have offered to the premier of British Columbia to arrange his visit in Washington and to assist him in meeting U.S. officials. I believe we have the practice of ensuring that our ambassador or a senior official be present at such meetings. I might remind the hon. member that his belated interest in this subject really has not come as something new to the government. We have made representations to the United States government at all levels on many occasions. I told the House that I had discussed the matter with President Nixon himself. Of course, the hon. member is aware of the fact that the Liberal leader in British Columbia is responsible for the very good turn of events in this matter.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, may I say with respect that I do not mind waiting three weeks to get an answer but I do not think I deserve to have a lecture.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fraser: I have a supplementary question for the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the government has stated its opposition to the tanker route and yet apparently set up a joint committee to study international control, can the Prime Minister tell the House what the present policy of the government is regarding the tanker route and, if the policy is opposition,

what alternative has the government discussed with the United States?

Mr. Trudeau: With regard to the matter of policy, Mr. Speaker, I think we have discussed it in the House in answer to several questions. I just want to remind the hon. member that what I said a couple of weeks ago, I believe, in answer to this question was that I had discussed this matter with the President. I suggested to him that we refer the matter to the International Joint Commission. The President suggested that it be done rather through a different ad hoc committee. It is this ad hoc committee to which I have referred. I have no report on how frequently it has met or if it has met at all. I do know that the matter has been pursued, as the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce would say, between the two governments and the Minister of the Environment has repeated again that he is proposing to meet his opposite number in the United States.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the Leader of the Opposition for a supplementary question. We are fast approaching the end of the question period and we have had a large number of supplementary questions on every question that has come up. I think that is the source of difficulty during the question period.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister following his answers to the questions put to him. Is it not the position that the government, after assuring the House that an ad hoc committee representing officials of the two countries would be set up to study this matter, has done absolutely nothing about that since?

* * *

STATUS OF WOMEN

IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS—POSSIBILITY OF DELAY BECAUSE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour and is prompted by the report that the minister intends to establish an advisory committee to study implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. Is it the intention of the government now to delay the implementation of any of these recommendations or to delay the bringing forward of legislation until the minister has had a report from that committee?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, many of the recommendations have already been implemented and many are in the course of being implemented. The purpose of the advisory council is merely to assist the government in a judicious way in acting on other recommendations that have not yet been acted upon. It is designed to help. I would point out to the hon. member that there was a report tabled in the House in the latter part of last year indicating how many of these recommendations we have already acted upon, and I would be pleased to send him a copy.