

responsibilities very well. And I think that the Member will see the results when the vote is held tomorrow.

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[English]

#### NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

##### DECISION ON NATURAL GAS EXPORTS TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Yesterday the National Energy Board granted Pan-Alberta Gas Ltd. permission to sell over two trillion cubic feet of natural gas to southern California, even though Pan-Alberta does not have enough natural gas under contract to supply its own contractual needs.

This brings to 17 trillion cubic feet the amount of Canadian natural gas that is under contract to the United States. With the six trillion feet pending approval before the National Energy Board, one-third of all western natural gas is contracted to the United States.

● (1440)

How long will it be before the Government allows the United States to have all Canadian natural gas under its trade agreement with the United States? Even before the agreement comes into effect it has one-third of it.

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, it is true that yesterday, the National Energy Board approved Pan-Alberta's application, and in a matter of days or weeks, at the most, the Government will be asked to ratify the NEB's decision.

I would like to point out to Hon. Members that this procedure, both with respect to the number of years and the quantity involved, is not unusual for the NEB. Contracts of this kind have been approved many times in previous years. In fact, the twenty-five year period is part of the National Energy Board Act.

Second, section 83.4 provides that the NEB may consider discovery trends when approving contracts, so that the NEB's decision was well within the limits of this legislation. The Government will make a decision within a few days.

[English]

##### SECURITY OF SUPPLY FOR CANADIAN CONSUMERS

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, that is not true. Before the Government came to power the National Energy Board would never have approved a contract like that which permits the sale of natural gas that the company does not even have. What about the natural gas

#### Oral Questions

that is there? What will the Government do to protect the security of Canadians?

The National Energy Board is nothing more than a monitoring agency. It has no power at all. There is no protection for Canadian consumers. What will the Government do to protect Canadian consumers of natural gas? When will it put some teeth back in the National Energy Board?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I should be glad to check whether, in years previous to 1984, the NEB granted contracts for twenty-five years, and I will advise the Hon. Member accordingly.

Second, according to this Government's philosophy, the best way to ensure security of supply for Canadians is, first of all, to provide for a market that favours investment and thus production, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

#### CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA

##### FORMER COMMISSIONER'S ROLE IN AWARDING CONTRACTS

**Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. It concerns one of the Prime Minister's classmates, Mr. Rhéal Leblanc, who was appointed Commissioner of Correctional Institutions.

**Mr. Crosbie:** What class? Kindergarten?

**Mr. Rodriguez:** In light of information that was finally squeezed out of the Government concerning the behaviour of Mr. Leblanc, the former Commissioner of Corrections, and Mr. Anderson, and contracts totalling some \$628,000, and in view of the fact that the Minister was informed as far back as November, 1986, why did the Minister not order an audit at that time?

**Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member would review the article in question carefully, he would note that in 1986 I was advised that all actions to date were quite proper and in conformity with the rules and regulations.

However, when I was first advised subsequently of this matter in the early fall, 1987, I immediately commissioned an independent audit of the commissioner's actions, which was done by the Comptroller General's office. I received that report at the end of February, 1988. An action plan was put into place, which was approved by both the Treasury Board and the Comptroller General's office. This plan will ensure that such actions will not take place again.