

ENERGY

COAL—PROPOSALS FROM NOVA SCOTIA FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MINES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to questions posed by the hon. member for South Shore and the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North. Has the minister of Energy, Mines and Resources received any proposals from the government of Nova Scotia regarding further development of coal mining in that province as a result of the minister's statement last winter that he would be prepared to entertain specific proposals from the provinces?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I should like to check the record before responding to that question, but I will undertake to do so and advise the Leader of the Opposition.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF FORCE IN EUROPE AS A RESULT OF BUDGETARY CHANGES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence which arises partially from comments made yesterday by the Maritime commander, as well as during the latter part of last week, regarding his concern in respect of reduced activity. In achieving a 30 per cent cutback in this phase of the current defence budget have the minister and his colleagues given consideration to any reduction in Europe?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I think the first thing that must be clarified is that the defence budget is not being cut, but is being increased. It is up at least \$150 million this year over last year. It will continue to be increased. As we attempt to make allocations as between personnel costs, equipment costs and operations we must adjust the balance, and, as I explained to the House last week, that process is going on at the present time. Europe is not being considered in our present thinking as being an area where we would make cuts.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, would the minister indicate whether in the requests he has quite apparently sent out for budgeting purposes in relation to a review of our forces' position in Europe for the next fiscal year, has he asked for some suggestion about how an acceptable cutback might be achieved in Europe next year?

Mr. Richardson: No, we have not done that, Mr. Speaker.

The Address—Mr. M. Dionne

ENERGY

SARNIA-MONTREAL PIPELINE—NATURE OF POSSIBLE GUARANTEE BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, in view of the doubt now that the Montreal pipeline will go ahead, will the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources indicate when this interprovincial matter was discussed in Cabinet, and was there any guarantee that the pipeline would be viable? If so, would he divulge that information?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think the view generally at that time both in the oil industry and the regulatory agencies, that is the Alberta Board and the National Energy Board, was that the supply would be adequate over a period of time to meet the additional demands of the Montreal market.

Mr. Bawden: Mr. Speaker, will the line be built with federal government guarantees if in fact the National Energy Board report on reserves proves there is insufficient oil to fill the line and make it viable?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, as I told the House last week, the nature of the guarantees, if any, is something which the company will be putting to us in the near future, and the government will, of course, have to make a decision as to the nature of any financial participation the federal government might undertake.

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SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed, from Friday, October 11, consideration of the motion of Mr. Louis Duclos for an address to His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, when the allotted time ran out on Friday, I was discussing some of the problems that affect my constituency and constituents, and I should like to continue in that vein for a few minutes.

Let me turn my attention for a moment or two to the matter of police protection in Northumberland County in the province of New Brunswick. We seem to be experiencing a period of increasing crime which must be partially the result of the lack of police protection we have. The County of Northumberland covers an area of 4,720 square miles. To police that area we have a total of 22 RCMP officers and men. They are divided into three detachments, one at Newcastle, one at Doaktown and one at Neguac. I wish again to emphasize that the area which they must cover encompasses 4,720 square miles with a population of approximately 52,000 people. By comparison Parliament Hill is policed by 38 Royal Canadian Mounted Policemen, consisting of 28 constables, four corporals and one staff sergeant, in addition to the protective staff. As I said, the police situation in Northumberland-Miramichi