

NORTHERN PIPELINES

ALASKA GAS PIPELINE—PROPOSAL OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, my question was originally directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, but since he is probably resting up after his activity last Friday I should like to direct it to the Prime Minister.

Apparently Senator Olson, the Minister of State for Economic Development, in an effort to get his pipeline proposal through, has called for a write-in campaign by Alberta residents in order to assist him in persuading cabinet with respect to this proposal. The poor fellow needs help.

I should like to ask the Prime Minister, so we can better understand what kind of write-in Senator Olson wants to encourage out west, whether he would tell us what Senator Olson's proposal is with respect to the pipeline.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, with regard to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, I can assure the hon. member that the minister is not resting; he is meeting in Victoria, B.C., with his counterpart.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: As to the question concerning Senator Olson, I have not heard what he has said. I have a clipping in front of me, according to which he expressed surprise that the Tory opposition, and particularly their leader, is not supporting this project. I am not sure whether or not he is right, because I do not think anyone knows what the Tories think on this. But apparently Senator Olson was telling Albertans that it would be useful if they helped their members of Parliament—of which, unfortunately, we do not have any on this side—to make up their minds on this, rather than just to criticize the government if they did and if they did not.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Madam Speaker, I think that if the Prime Minister wanted to get some members from western Canada, he would not be sending the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to Victoria. The Prime Minister has raised the question of getting representation from western Canada. If he is really serious about it, maybe he would come clean with the House of Commons and the people of Canada as to what the policy is about the pipeline, and what position the government takes with respect to the pre-build.

If the Prime Minister really wants to carry out the proposals made in such glowing terms in the Speech from the Throne about consultation with western members, will he arrange a meeting between Senator Olson and western members of Parliament to discuss the pre-building of the pipeline, so we can give him some assistance in getting this matter to cabinet?

Mr. Trudeau: I will be happy to ask the senator to arrange such a meeting. I think it would be helpful if we had some

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unified view from the Conservative opposition as to what they think on this. The hon. member for Yukon says we have had it.

Mr. Nielsen: Yes, since 1977.

Mr. Trudeau: He wants it. I know you people have had it; but I am not sure if the hon. member is referring to the policy.

Mr. Nielsen: The policy.

● (1440)

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, then I think I can assume from what the hon. member for Yukon said that the Conservative party stands undividedly behind the pre-build. I see them all indicating "Yes".

Miss MacDonald: Where does the government stand?

Mr. Trudeau: So I take this as a matter of record; they are all nodding their assent.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Where do you stand?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: If hon. members bear with me, I will tell them—

Mr. Paproski: Tell us where you stand.

Mr. Trudeau: That is what I am going to do; just hold your horses. It may take a little bit of time, but I will tell them exactly where we stand.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Trudeau: The law passed by this Parliament in the summer of, I believe, 1978 indicated that we should not proceed with any part of the pipeline unless it was an integrated part of the whole. That is still the position of this government. However, we do not think that one is going against the spirit or the letter of that law by building a section of that pipeline, provided one has the guarantees that it will be part of the whole. That is exactly the position of this government, that one can proceed in stages—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I do not think we have the support of the NDP on this. We are losing them on this.

Mr. Rae: No.

Mr. Trudeau: At this point we are working with the Tories.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I think I can say—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.