

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

INQUIRY INTO LAXITY IN OPERATING EFFICIENCY

Mr. Charles H. Thomas (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question has already been alluded to by the hon. member for Moose Jaw, but it is of such a critical nature that I too would ask the Prime Minister if he will order an inquiry into the operations of the C.N.R. to determine if there has been a decrease in operating efficiency and a consequent increase in hazard to the travelling public?

Mr. Speaker: While the matter is being pondered I will recognize the hon. member for Calgary Centre.

OIL

SHIPMENT OF OFFSHORE PRODUCT TO AREA WEST OF OTTAWA RIVER

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, this question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, (Mr. Greene) or the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatchewan (Mr. Lang), whichever is in a position to answer. Has the government received information that since the opening of the shipping season on the Great Lakes off-shore petroleum products are being shipped into that part of Canada west of the Ottawa River which, under our national oil policy, is supposed to be supplied with western Canadian oil products?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I do not have information at hand in the nature of a recent report on the situation, but the matter is being looked into at the present time.

Mr. Harkness: As a supplementary question will the minister take immediate steps to determine the extent of this penetration by foreign oil, and will he take immediate steps to see that it ceases?

Mr. Lang: As I indicated, Mr. Speaker, the facts are being found out and will be brought to my attention at an early date. At that time an appropriate decision will be taken.

MOVEMENT OF DRILLING RIG TO NEW ZEALAND

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources of which I have given him notice. It arises from an announcement that a multi-million dollar drilling rig is being moved by Shell Oil from

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the Vancouver island coast to New Zealand. Can the minister advise whether this move was caused by the delay in clearing up the administration of Canada's offshore oil resources?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the notice he gave me of his question. The answer is no. There is no such reason for the move. The Shell Oil Company announced ten days ago the completion of its two-year drilling program on the west coast.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PASSPORTS—RELAXATION OF BRITISH REQUIREMENTS

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Probably he will take notice of it when he finishes his private conversation with the Prime Minister. It has to do with the trouble that so many thousands of Canadians are meeting in obtaining passports. Is it true that British immigration requirements have been relaxed temporarily because of delay in issuing Canadian passports?

Mr. Speaker: I do not have a substantial objection to the question asked by the hon. member, but normally it should be asked directly rather than by asking for confirmation or denial of a statement. Substantially the question is in order and the minister may wish to reply.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have been in touch with the British government representatives here who understand the great difficulties that have been caused by the enormous increase in passport applications, and in the present exceptional circumstances I understand that entry facilities are being accorded in emergency cases to Canadian travellers whose names are notified in advance to the British immigration authorities by the Canadian authorities. In certain emergency cases also the British immigration authorities may admit a Canadian traveller who is able to produce alternative proof of identity and citizenship. In both sets of cases no guarantee can be given in advance. A traveller proceeding in this manner does so at his own risk.

Mr. Howe: As a supplementary question, is the same program being carried out with regard to any other countries?