

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether the hon. member has a supplementary question to ask. We should not enter into debate.

Mr. Comeau: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that the price of oil and gas is to be considerably higher on the east coast, will the minister now consider supplying Canadian oil and gas to the east coast?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the price increases announced today, resulting from higher world petroleum prices as well as higher tanker costs, are being considered by my department and by the National Energy Board.

Mr. Stanfield: Does the minister think he will roll them back?

Mr. Greene: Any conclusions with respect to the viability of a pipeline will be very carefully considered by the board. In the meantime, the National Energy Board is prepared to consider quickly an application by any entrepreneur wishing to build a pipeline to the Montreal market.

Mr. Baldwin: When are you making your next speech, Joe?

PROPOSED TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM—SUGGESTED INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION HEARINGS ON POSSIBLE POLLUTION FROM TANKERS

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has he had an opportunity to explore with his United States counterpart the possibility of International Joint Commission hearings similar to those scheduled on the Skagit Valley question, in order to permit all relevant information on the important question of tanker traffic and consequent oil pollution in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Gulf of Georgia to be made completely public?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not yet had an opportunity of exploring this matter with the Secretary of State for the United States, nor have my officials. I will bear the hon. member's suggestion in mind.

Mr. Anderson: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A number of hon. members wish to ask supplementary questions. The Chair will recognize the hon. member, but I suggest that we should try to go as quickly as we can to other subjects.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the realization by the government of the United States and the government of Canada that public hearings on the effect on the environment of raising the Ross dam should

Inquiries of the Ministry

be held, will the government House leader now reconsider his acceptance of the motion of the hon. member for Peace River to shelve the second report of the House of Commons Special Committee on Environmental Pollution and bring this matter forward so that similar public hearings can be held by members of the House on the environmental question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Baldwin: The hon. member's representations have been heard and noted.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's question is in the form of a representation. He must assume that it will be considered sympathetically by the minister.

* * *

POWER

PROPOSED FLOODING OF SKAGIT RIVER VALLEY—CANADIAN REPRESENTATIONS TO U.S. FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION HEARING

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry who may become minister of the environment. Does the government of Canada intend to make any representation at the Federal Power Commission hearing in Washington on the question of the Skagit Valley and the application before the FPC, in view of the effect this project will have on Canada?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, it would not be appropriate for the government of Canada to appear before a foreign tribunal of that character.

Mr. Nowlan: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister intend to have the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich journey to Washington again and do the work that the government of Canada ought to be doing?

Mr. McGrath: And get his face slapped for doing it. The hon. member is not appreciated over there.

SKAGIT RIVER REFERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION—SCOPE OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs arising out of the agreement between Canada and the United States for a reference to the International Joint Commission. In view of clause (c) of the reference which limits the commission's power to make recommendations to matters which are not inconsistent with the commission's previous order of 1942 and the agreement between the city of Seattle and the province of British Columbia of 1967, I ask the minister whether this means that the commission