

## Oral Questions

● (1430)

## PIPELINES

## ALASKA GAS PIPELINE—FAILURE OF COMMITTEE TO MEET

**Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Bearing in mind that the Alaska gas pipeline, if completed, would be about an \$80 billion project, would create between 150,000 and 200,000 jobs and those jobs would be effective in places like Sudbury, Hamilton, places where the iron ore could be mined and rolled, plus all of industrial central Canada, why is it that presently, with continuing rumours coming out of Alaska that there is a move toward shipping it the 800-mile route from Prudhoe Bay via the Port of Valdez into Japan as LNG Gas, we still do not have the Committee on Northern Pipelines meeting? Is there a disregard on behalf of the Government of Canada for protecting that enormous capacity for the production of jobs in Canada?

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Malone:** I wish the Members of the NDP—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. The question of the Hon. Member is unusually long.

**Mr. Malone:** It is unusually good too.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Malone:** It deals with jobs for Canadians. Can the Minister report to the House of Commons whether he is going to call upon that Committee to meet, and what is it that Mitchell Sharp, his Liberal friend is doing? Do we have any—

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, the question of committees of the House is not the responsibility of the Minister, it is the responsibility of the House. If the Hon. Member is a Member of that committee, he should talk to the chairman and request a meeting. I have no objection to a meeting. Nobody has asked me.

The problem with the pipeline is not that Canadians have not played their part. Hon. Members will recall that some years ago Parliament sat a full summer in order to pass the Bill. We authorized the pre-build of a large section of that. The problem is vested with the American section of the pipeline because they cannot find the financing or the market. As far as the project of former Governor Hickel is concerned, to have the gas delivered to Valdez, it is a project that was put forward exactly at the time of the discoveries in Prudhoe Bay. There is nothing new to it. When the Americans are willing to build their section of the pipeline, they will just do what Canada has already done.

## CANADA-UNITED STATES AGREEMENT

**Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot):** Madam Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In

view of the fact that Senator Bud Olson in the other place who is in charge of this very important job-building task, stated on July 17, 1980, that the risks were minimal, the project was going ahead, that the former Energy Minister gave an iron-clad guarantee that the job was going ahead, and added on July 17 "is reasonable time"; and we have the assurance on July 21, 1980, of the Prime Minister, does the Prime Minister in fact have some kind of agreement with the United States that he can share with this House? Will he table that information? Will he give us whatever there is so that we in Parliament and the people of Canada might know that this enormous megaproject, with billions of dollars of job-creating capacity across the country, is in fact onstream and that we did not build the pre-build for naught? Will he give us that assurance?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the agreement I have is the one that was made publicly by President Reagan when he came to this country. He made it quite clear that his administration was committed to the building of that pipeline, and that remains the case.

\* \* \*

## ENERGY

## FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL PRICING AGREEMENT

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The National Energy Program of October, 1980, and the energy-pricing agreement of September, 1981, were predicated on the assumption of steadily rising world oil prices. Not only have world oil prices remained flat since then, but since yesterday, as a result of the collapse of the OPEC meetings in Geneva, it is widely believed that we in fact will see decreasing world oil prices. In view of these developments, is the Minister prepared to reopen discussions with the producing Provinces in order to find pricing and taxing regimes more appropriate to these changing circumstances, since obviously the circumstances are totally different from those which existed then, or those that were thought to exist now?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, we have an agreement signed with the Provinces for five years. There have been no requests from the different Provinces asking me to reopen the agreement. Therefore it is a purely hypothetical question at this time.

**Mr. Andre:** My suggestion was that the federal Government, this Government, show some leadership.

## REQUEST FOR RE-EXAMINATION OF PRICING STRUCTURE

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** Madam Speaker, I have a related question. Press stories over the weekend confirm