

Canada can put the boots to the government when the election is held?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gillespie: The hon. member has overworked this subject, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

ENERGY

AMOUNT OF WESTERN OIL THAT CAN BE MOVED OVERLAND TO EASTERN CANADA THIS WINTER

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It arises from the recommendation of the government's technical advisory committee that "the movement of crude oil by unit train from Ontario to Quebec cannot be implemented this winter because of the time required to design and construct suitable and safe loading and unloading facilities". Would the minister tell us on what basis he is confident that 40,000 to 60,000 barrels a day can be moved overland this winter, which was the estimate he gave this House on November 28?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): The earlier figure was suggested to me by the committee. It has now revised this estimate, noting that additional facilities would need to be constructed in order to achieve that level of movement by rail.

Mr. Jarvis: Noting that the St. Lawrence Seaway is to close tomorrow, would the minister tell us what immediate steps the government is planning with a view to increasing the movement of oil overland?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): A certain amount of oil can be moved by truck, but as the report indicates there is not sufficient capacity to move by rail within the next four months the volumes we have been talking about.

* * *

[Translation]

AIR TRANSPORT

INVESTIGATION OF ACCIDENT AT GASPÉ

Mr. Albert Bécharde (Bonaventure-Îles de la Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

An Air Gaspé aircraft was involved in an accident December 17 in Gaspé. This aircraft was coming in from the Magdalen Islands.

Several passengers, most of them islanders, suffered serious injuries. Can the minister say whether his department has undertaken an investigation into the cause of this accident?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, investigators have immediately gone on the site to find out the cause of this unfortunate accident.

Oral Questions

FINANCE

GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED LOANS TO SMALL BUSINESSES—REQUEST THAT MAXIMUM BE INCREASED

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

In view of the higher cost of materials and equipment in the industry, does the minister intend to act so as to enable chartered banks to increase the \$25,000 maximum on loans to small businesses?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, this is a most interesting suggestion.

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance.

Since industrialists are screaming for such services, can the minister say what is the obstacle to an increase in the \$25,000 maximum for these loans? I think that it would be a great service to the industry. I ask the minister whether he can act directly and as soon as possible.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I will consider all the aspects of the question.

* * *

[English]

ENERGY

MOVEMENT OF OIL FROM WEST COAST—ALLOCATION OF DOCK SPACE AT VANCOUVER

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It arises from the statement by the minister that the government requires legislative means to deal with the allocation of dock space at the Vancouver terminal of Trans Mountain Pipe Line. I quote the minister: "Allocation of dock space is required at the Vancouver terminal of Trans Mountain Pipe Line for shipments to eastern Canada in a situation where available space appears to be overnominated"—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member ask the question instead of quoting a statement at length?

Mr. Reynolds: I just wanted to make sure the minister knew what he said yesterday. Is the minister aware that no tankers are tied up at the Vancouver terminal today? Also, has he been made aware by the port manager of Vancouver harbour that no dock space shortages are apparent?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): That is contrary to the information I have received from the oil companies which are attempting to transport the oil.

• (1520)

Mr. Reynolds: Would the minister contact the port manager at Vancouver, who was formerly a Liberal, and find out what are the true facts in regard to Vancouver harbour?