

*Inquiries of the Ministry*SASKATCHEWAN RIVER—NEGOTIATIONS WITH
INDUSTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR MERCURY
CONTAMINATION

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Will the minister also be prepared to report to the House on negotiations with the industry the minister has said is responsible for the mercury pollution in the Saskatchewan River?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): We are meeting with the industries which are responsible for the pollution with a view not only to making sure that they recycle all their effluent within their own premises but also clean up the rivers downstream and from plants themselves.

INDUSTRY

U.S.-CANADA AUTOMOBILE PACT—REQUEST
FOR STATEMENT ON POSITION OF
NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Will the minister be able to make a statement to the House before the end of this week on the state of negotiations between the governments of Canada and the United States on the Canada-United States auto pact?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I do not think so, Mr. Speaker, but I will speak to the hon. member on the subject.

Mr. Broadbent: A supplementary question. Can the minister inform the House whether the cabinet has made a decision on the extension of the period for which auto workers may obtain TAB benefits?

Mr. Pepin: No decision has been made on that subject.

REDUCTION OF PRICES OF AUTOMOBILES
MADE IN CANADA

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): In view of the great amount of unemployment in the car industry and the low sales of cars, has the minister or any member of his department recently contacted the car manufacturers suggesting that the prices of cars made in Canada be brought in line with the prices of the same cars sold in the United States?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, "unemployment" might have been replaced by "lay-
[Mr. Davis.]

offs" in the question. No, Mr. Speaker, we have not done that. In consultation with the presidents of these companies it has been rather well established, however, that the gap has been declining progressively in recent years and that it might not be wise to expect that the gap will be eliminated totally in the future in view of the different circumstances in the two countries. I do not have the time to go into the differences.

OIL

APPLICATION FOR BUILDING OF PIPELINE
FROM PRUDHOE BAY TO EDMONTON

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): I have a question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Has the federal government received an application from a consortium of oil companies to construct a pipeline for the carriage of Prudhoe Bay oil through the Mackenzie Basin to Edmonton?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, but I will check with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

An hon. Member: He is here now.

Mr. Aiken: Perhaps I might address the question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It had been my intention to direct it to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development but I would appreciate a reply from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources if he heard the question.

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I believe the hon. member asked whether there had been an application in connection with the building of a line. Such an application would go to the National Energy Board, and to the best of my knowledge none has yet been filed.

[Later:]

Mr. Aiken: In his reply to the question I asked a few moments ago the minister said an application had not yet been made with regard to the oil pipeline I mentioned. Is the minister aware of any negotiations which may be under way in connection with the construction of such a pipeline?

Mr. Greene: I do not know about negotiations, but research is being done by the Mackenzie river pipeline group with respect to oil pipelines and by Trans-Canada Pipe Lines and other pipeline companies with respect to gas pipelines. I do not believe any