

Inquiries of the Ministry

now what the views of the Canadian government are about the dangers involved in the pollution of the seas and probably the pollution of Canadian land.

Mr. Woolliams: In view of the 210,000 gallon diesel oil spill on the west coast of the United States, with evidence of traces of the oil being found as far north as the Juan de Fuca area, I would like to ask the minister whether the government officials are expressing the position that the Canadian government cannot give its support to the TAPS route on the basis of any present research, particularly since the Acting Prime Minister's former colleague says it will take several years to come up with a decision in this regard?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I do not know that I understand the purport of the question, but if the hon. member is saying he shares the views of the Canadian government about the dangers connected with building the TAPS line, then I am all with him.

PROPOSED TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM—NEGOTIATIONS ON CONTINENTAL ENERGY POLICY

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the United States is very keen on a continental energy policy, and in view of the fact that on the other hand we are very much concerned about the effects that the TAPS line will have on the ecology of Canada, will he indicate to the United States authorities that if they proceed with this line this will jeopardize any negotiations we may have on energy?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that in a matter like this threats get one very far. I am quite sure that in the United States there is the same concern about the ecological dangers of building that line as there is in Canada. It is most important that all of us should make this concern known which, as I say, I think is shared by the people of the western United States as well.

Mr. Saltsman: Since wringing of hands has not done much good, perhaps the Acting Prime Minister might do well to try something more positive.

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[Translation]

POLLUTION

EFFECTS OF PROPOSED QUEBEC, JAMES BAY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT

Mr. Jacques-L. Trudel (Montreal-Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister.

Does the government intend to appoint a commission to inquire into the possible environmental damage as well as pollution resulting from the construction of the dam, a project which will probably affect more than one province in the Far North and which has been announced by the premier of Quebec?

[Mr. Sharp.]

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

DISCUSSION WITH CHAIRMAN OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EXPANDING TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the President of the Privy Council, as government House leader, whether, following the intervention of the Prime Minister on Friday, he has had the usual frank and fruitful discussion with the chairman of the Special Committee on Environmental Pollution with regard to expanding the terms of reference of that committee to include not only an examination of the situation on the Pacific coast along the TAPS route but the alternative route along the Mackenzie Valley and the problems affecting the aboriginal rights of the native people, and if not that committee has any other committee been selected?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have not had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the Prime Minister since he made his answer in the House on Friday. I will look forward to that discussion with anticipation.

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OIL

PROPOSED TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON WASHINGTON MEETING OF UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, since I am sure the Acting Prime Minister will agree that information is one of the things required with regard to the proposed TAPS route, will he assure the House that a report will be made to it this week as to the findings of the group of officials who are representing Canada in Washington at these discussions?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think I can undertake to make a report on their behalf.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROVINCES ON OFFSHORE MINERAL RIGHTS—INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. Would the Acting Prime Minister indicate whether any progress has been made in the negotiations with the provinces on the question of offshore mineral rights and, if so, would he indicate whether we may expect legislation on this matter prior to the end of this session?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take that question as notice.

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the President of the Privy Council. In view of his interest in