

*Oral Questions*

some expectation in any event that alternate supplies may be arranged with Alberta producers. We will know the outcome of those discussions better in a few days.

**Mr. Douglas:** In view of the fact that the Alberta and Southern Gas Company has announced its willingness to ship gas to British Columbia through an interconnection at Pendleton, Oregon, and that Mr. Cliff, the Chairman of Inland Natural Gas Company, Limited, says that the APCO group has refused to allow this transfer of gas, I want to ask the minister what steps he and his department are taking to ensure that this gas will be made available to the province of British Columbia and at what price will it be made available? Does the minister think that the people of British Columbia should continue to export cheap gas and pay for higher priced gas from Alberta?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, the information I have with regard to the APCO arrangement is not in accordance with what has been stated by the hon. gentleman. I think I would like to ask the board to confirm from Inland if indeed the APCO refusal has been made because my understanding is that this is not so.

NATURAL GAS—POSSIBILITY OF EXPORT CURTAILMENT UNTIL BRITISH COLUMBIA DOMESTIC MARKET SATISFIED

**Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary. I should like to ask the minister if he is aware that Inland Natural Gas Company, Limited expects a critical period as soon as November 15 and that in order to take any advantage of Alberta gas a 40-mile pipeline would have to be built? Can the minister tell us—he has avoided the question—if the National Energy Board has made any decision to curtail exports of gas until such time as domestic markets are satisfied in British Columbia?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, no decision to curtail exports has been made. The priority, as I stated to the Leader of the Opposition, is to secure alternate supplies. The board appeared to feel that in turn the distributors felt this could be arranged.

**Mr. Oberle:** Mr. Speaker, I have stated to the minister that it is quite impossible to build a 40-mile pipeline in two weeks. What other steps has the minister taken to secure not only industrial but domestic users of natural gas in British Columbia and, particularly, has he assured that this shortage will not result in higher prices in British Columbia?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I prefer to take the advice of the National Energy Board rather than that of the hon. gentleman on this question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Can you build a pipeline?

An hon. Member: Thumper is back!

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

*[Translation]*

SUPPLY OF OIL FOR EASTERN CANADA—RESULTS OF MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER AND VENEZUELIAN AUTHORITIES—PROPOSED EXTENSION OF PIPELINE FROM TORONTO TO MONTREAL

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary to the hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Could he tell us if the recent meeting which he attended in Caracas allows him to be optimistic as regards the supply of oil products to eastern Canada, and if he intends pursuing his efforts for the extension of the pipeline from Toronto to Montreal?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, we have had discussions in Venezuela concerning the supply of crude oil in the long and the short term for the eastern Canada markets. There is no firm commitment as regards the short term supply, but we shall have discussions in order to arrange, if possible, for an agreement concerning the long term supply of oil. As for the Montreal pipeline issue, it can indeed be said that such an arrangement with Venezuela could be made in conjunction with the operation of the pipeline from Sarnia to Montreal.

*[English]*

INQUIRY AS TO MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND INDUSTRY TO ARRIVE AT NATIONAL POLICY

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is as follows: In view of the pledge the minister made to the standing committee and to the House when the papers on energy were submitted that there would be a meeting of provincial governments, industry and the federal people interested to try to arrive at a national energy policy that would enable Canada to act on its own initiative rather than responding to these continual crises, has the minister yet decided on a date for that meeting?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, I have had meetings with all of the provincial governments on this question and, indeed, with a broad spectrum of the industry. With respect to a federal-provincial conference, in this regard at least it is the view, I understand, of the premier of Alberta that the appropriate time for such a conference would be May, 1974, and that we would for this purpose have a meeting of the federal and provincial ministers on November 23 next to set the terms of any such conference and discuss arrangements for it. At the moment, we have in contemplation a meeting of governments, federal and provincial, rather than a three-way meeting of the two levels of government and industry.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Hon. members will note that there are a few members seeking supplementaries on this subject. Perhaps we should try to limit supplementaries for the time being in the hope that we can go on to other