

tion for permission to transfer shares of the Northgate Cable Company to the Royal Bank of Canada and has, therefore, given no such authority to transfer shares.

I would therefore ask the hon. member to withdraw his motion.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Transfer for debate.

**Mr. Speaker:** Transferred for debate. Shall the remaining motions stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

### ENERGY

#### PROPOSED TAPS TANKER ROUTE—SUGGESTION PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION OR PRIME MINISTER GO TO WASHINGTON TO ASSERT CANADA'S POSITION

**Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the concern of all members of this House about the danger of the proposed TAPS oil tanker route to the interests of Canada, and in view of the fact that almost all channels of opposition to that route have been exhausted, is the Prime Minister prepared to consult immediately with other party leaders to organize a special parliamentary delegation to go to Washington to re-assert our position with the United States executive, congress and the American public?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will certainly consider the matter further. I am sure the question was asked in great earnest. I must say my first reaction is the same as hon. members on this side who said no to the earlier suggestion. If there were an invitation issued to members of parliament to go there, it might be a different matter. I put myself in the position of ourselves if a delegation of Congress just landed in Ottawa without any invitation. I think it would be a preposterous situation. I think the reverse would be exactly the same.

**Mr. Fraser:** I remind the Prime Minister that some of us put ourselves in the position of those who will suffer from the danger of the tanker route. In light of allegations that the United States state department distorted Canada's position, will the Prime Minister advise the House whether the government has inquired about this, is about to make a protest on the matter and has any plans to effectively and decisively express our position while there is still time?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, on the first part of the question, I must assure the hon. member and the House that the danger of the TAPS route is something about

### Oral Questions

which the government has been aware. Statements have been made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Minister of the Environment. Representations have been made to the American government on all these matters in an extremely forceful way. In answer to the first suggestion, it is not a question of not feeling there is a real need that the Americans know our view. I am just talking about the propriety of a bunch of parliamentarians landing in Washington, without being invited, and starting to lobby the American congress. If the reverse were to happen, I think members opposite would find it preposterous.

**Mr. Fraser:** In view of the Prime Minister's objections to a bunch of parliamentarians going there, is he prepared to make a special visit to Washington to clarify our position and reassert our opposition to the oil tanker route in order to rally support before the final decision is made by the U.S. congress?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member suggests a visit to Washington. To talk with whom? If it is to talk to the president, I did talk to him about this very matter. When he visited me in Ottawa, I made very strong representations. Therefore, I do not see the exact need for me to repeat that same trip in the reverse direction. The hon. member might want to hear the answer to the other part of his previous question. If so, the Secretary of State for External Affairs might want to report on the matter of Washington actions.

#### PROPOSED TAPS TANKER ROUTE—IMPACT ON CANADA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS

**Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. The government has stated on several occasions recently that its key concern is about the tanker route and, particularly, the location of the southern terminal at Cherry Point. Will the Prime Minister indicate what steps have been taken or are about to be taken to impress on the United States that their present plans are unacceptable and are of major significance with regard to future Canada-U.S. relations?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I repeat the same answer. This has been our firm position for many months and, indeed, even years. I do not yet accept the proposition the tankers will necessarily have to enter into Cherry Point.

**Mr. McKinnon:** Mr. Speaker, there is of course, no other place they can enter at the present time other than Cherry Point. Has the government advised the United States government that Canada is not prepared to separate concern for co-operation on energy and trade problems from concern for co-operation and mutual respect on such environmental matters as the TAPS tanker route and, if not, is the Prime Minister now going to make a clear statement on the matter?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I am not clear about the import of the question. Is the hon. member suggesting we bargain other subjects against this one? I am not clear on this.