

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Hees:** I am glad to learn that the minister has compared this very excellent plan with the proposals contained in his white paper. In the course of this comparison has he not come to the conclusion that this plan is preferable to doing away with the 21 per cent tax rate and replacing it with the full 50 per cent levy, which seems to be the only real interest the minister has taken in small business?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member's supplementary is in the form of an argument and I would not think it is acceptable in such terms.

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**ENERGY**

## UNITED STATES PROPOSAL FOR GAS PIPELINE ACROSS CANADA FROM ALASKA—COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION—CONTINENTAL POLICY

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** May I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister arising out of a statement made yesterday by the United States Federal Power Commissioner, Albert Brooke, to the effect that the Nixon administration is trying to hasten the construction of a natural gas pipeline across Canada from Alaska because of the energy shortages being experienced south of the border? Has such a proposal been received from the government of the United States, are any discussions going on and has any decision been reached?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions, of course, about the building of this gas pipeline. Just how far those have involved bilateral discussions between officials of our two governments I am not quite certain at the moment. But it would be our wish that a gas pipeline be built, I think it would be in the interests of Canadians as well as of Americans.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Would the Acting Prime Minister be prepared to give an assurance that, before any decision is made with respect to the construction of such a pipeline, the whole matter will be referred to a standing committee of the House in order that we may have an opportunity of seeing what the gas needs of Canadians are, whether or not they would be affected, and also any studies that have been made of the ecological effects of the construction of such a pipeline through Canadian territory?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I would have thought that the ordinary procedure would be used in any application for the building of a pipeline in Canada. Parliament has laid down a procedure for the use of the National Energy Board. They would receive the application, and I am sure they would be as careful about Canadian interests as my hon. friend.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Since U.S. Federal Power Commissioner Brooke also said, "Concurrent with this is the effort to develop a common continental energy policy with our Canadian neighbours",

[Mr. Benson.]

may I ask the Acting Prime Minister whether discussions are going on at any level of government with respect to a continental energy policy, and would the government be prepared to make a statement on motions to give the House some information as to what energy commodities are being discussed and under what terms?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I think I can say quite categorically that no discussions are going on between Canada and the United States in regard to a continental energy policy. I do wish to add, however, that I think the respective developments in our two countries should be co-ordinated as much as possible so as to gain maximum advantage for both countries.

## CONTINENTAL POLICY—PRESSURE BY UNITED STATES

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Were the ministers who attended the latest interministerial conference between Canada and the United States, which as the minister knows takes place once or twice a year, subjected to any behind the scenes pressure brought to bear on the Canadian government, as it has been in the past, for a continental energy policy?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker.

## UNITED STATES PROPOSAL FOR GAS PIPELINE ACROSS CANADA FROM ALASKA—PROTECTION OF HUNTING AND FISHING GROUNDS

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister. Would the minister inform the House whether any steps have been taken, or will be taken, by the government to protect the traditional hunting and fishing grounds of the native peoples of the north over whose lands the pipeline will likely be routed?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** I am quite sure, Mr. Speaker, that if the National Energy Board were to recommend to the government the issuing of a licence for this purpose, the protection of the natural environment and the interests of the local inhabitants would be taken into account in reaching a decision.

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[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE**

## DAIRYING—ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM

**Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the fact that the President of the National Dairy Industry Council, Mr. Jackson, speaking at a meeting of the annual convention of Canadian dairy producers in Fredericton, predicted a shortage of milk by 1972 as a result of domestic and foreign demand exceeding the level of production for the current year, can the minister tell us whether his government intends to devel-