

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member reads the decision of the NEB, he will note that the NEB makes reference to the land claims of the Métis and the Dene people. It refers to the statement of principles which was signed by this government and which is being handled by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Negotiations are going forward and there is a time frame up to 1991 to settle.

As well, the NEB points out very clearly that if a pipeline application is heard, one of the conditions that will be examined will be the matter of training and the socioeconomic impact that a potential pipeline might have.

In fact, if the hon. member goes back to the Berger commission, which I am sure he supported, he will find that the Berger commission said that there should be a 10-year moratorium. There has already been a 12-year moratorium. Second, the Berger commission said that there should be land claim settlements wherever possible.

Through the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, COPE, that agreement was done. There was a statement of principles with the Dene and Métis people. The point, I think, is this. It is the very native people who are now in government in the Northwest Territories who 10 years ago when we were in office opposed any development because of the land claims not being settled and are now the proponents of the application. I say to the hon. member, listen to them, respect them and follow some of the vision they have for their area of the country.

Mr. Harvey (Edmonton East): In truth, Mr. Speaker, the Inuvialuit are in support of the pipeline proposal. The Dene-Métis are, at this point, in opposition because their claim has not been settled. If I may remind the hon. minister what it was Mr. Justice Berger said, and I quote from page 196 of his volume 1:

In my judgment, we must settle the native claims before we build the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. Such a settlement will not be simply the signing of an agreement, after which pipeline construction can then immediately proceed. Intrinsic to the settlement of native land

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claims is the establishment of new institutions and programs that will form the basis for native self-determination.

Again I ask, will the minister ask his colleagues in cabinet to suspend the NEB decision until these conditions are met?

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, obviously I am not going to convince the hon. member of the validity of the process but I think Canadians are reasonable people. First, what we have to keep in mind is what the NEB approved yesterday was an export licence. Second, what is now to take place are hearings on a pipeline, if in fact the applications go forward. As part of that pipeline hearing, the first gas that could flow would be in 1996. The statement of principle with the Dene and Métis is for 1991. I think 1991 is prior to 1996, and I would suggest to him that part of the conditions of any pipeline approval, if given, would be one relating to training, one relating to socioeconomic realities, one relating to environmental questions and a whole host of them relating to economic questions.

I ask the hon. member, are you for the development of the lives of the people of the north or is it only rhetoric and are you using it only for political purposes?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair has received notice of a point of order from the Hon. Member for Oshawa.

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POINT OF ORDER

REQUEST TO TABLE DOCUMENT

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Earlier in Question Period I made reference to a document that had been prepared in the office of the Minister for International Trade, a document that has been prepared there and circulated to the Secretary of State for External Affairs among other ministries.

I am asking for unanimous consent of the House so that I may table this document.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is not unanimous consent.