

## NORTHERN PIPELINES

### FOOTHILLS' ROUTE—CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Cape Breton Highlands-Canso):** Mr. Speaker, I have a short question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs arising out of our exchange yesterday. The minister was good enough to tell us that she has raised the matter of Foothills with Mr. Vance. Would she be good enough to tell me the date? Was it during the regular consultation at the United Nations in the fall that the Canadian foreign minister had with the Secretary of State for the United States?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** This was among many other matters that I discussed with the Secretary of State, Mr. Vance, concerning both our east and west coasts during our discussions in Tokyo at the time of the economic conference.

The hon. member may also wish to be informed, at this time, that I have heard from the president of Foothills to the effect that the support accorded by this government to the Foothills' project has been very gratefully welcomed and that Foothills will again be submitting their application to the National Energy Board tomorrow.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacEachen:** I am just a little puzzled by the hon. member's answer, because the Prime Minister told us not so long ago that the matter was not raised at Tokyo.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Miss MacDonald:** The question is whether or not the Prime Minister had raised it. I had said that I had been the one who had spoken to the U.S. Secretary of State. I trust the hon. member will realize that there was more than one person at the Tokyo conference.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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## TRANSPORT

### GRAIN—USE OF PORT OF CHURCHILL

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that the port of Churchill shipped only 500,000 tonnes this year instead of the 600,000 tonnes which was the target, and since the first ship to Churchill did not reach there until August 9 instead of mid-July—and even at that time there was not enough grain at that port—would the minister inform the House of the steps the government will take to guarantee that this northern port is used to full capacity for the benefit of all Canadians?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the hon. member's question and I assure him and other hon. members of the House of this government's

## Oral Questions

support for the greater utilization of the port of Churchill. To that end, we will be taking steps to encourage its increased utilization both in terms of providing better access and of improving the facilities on site.

We are distressed by the fact that the shipments are down this year compared with last year. However, it was essentially a matter of supply, and I have discussed this matter with the Canadian Wheat Board officials. I am sure that, together, we will be able to put our act together and ensure we will have record shipments for the next year.

**Mr. Murphy:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that it is possible and efficient to use Canadian icebreakers in Canada's north and this would help to lengthen the season, would the minister provide a guarantee that icebreakers will be used next spring and that Canadian ships will be available, instead of our having to wait for weeks for foreign ships to come to our ports?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** That is a matter that has been considered. As a matter of fact, it had been hoped that we would be able to get a load out of Churchill prior to the regular shipping season; however, we were not able to get an order at that time. But that work is still going on and the marine administrator is in contact with officials of the Canadian Wheat Board and other interested parties to make the necessary arrangements to ensure we can work toward extending the season.

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[Translation]

## REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

### PRIORITIES OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR PROGRAMS

**Hon. Marcel Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Supply and Services. Since he indicated recently that a meeting between federal ministers and their Quebec counterparts would take place in Montreal or Quebec City, with a view to discussing certain priorities and projects that the federal government could carry out in Quebec with the \$85 million that GM does not want to use for the moment, could the minister tell us whether he intends to apply pressure, or merely indicate to the Quebec government whether he intends to recommend that the decentralization program involving the Jonquière taxation data centre be carried out? Further, does he really intend to maintain the priorities of the federal government rather than those of the provincial government?

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, obviously during his visit throughout Canada the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce will discuss economic priorities with each province. The minister responsible for energy and commerce, the Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations and myself will discuss, during our visit,