

als would have been well advised when they heard about this in the first instance to communicate with the RCMP.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ENERGY

USE OF CANADIAN PIPE IN CONSTRUCTION OF NORTHERN GAS PIPELINE—POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN POLICY

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister and it arises out of a statement attributed to the Prime Minister made yesterday in Hamilton that:

The Canadian steel industry will have to be competitive if it expects any of its steel pipe to be used on the Canadian portion of the Alaska-Yukon natural gas pipeline.

In view of the fact that Foothills (Yukon) has repeatedly committed itself to purchasing all its steel pipe from Canadian steel producers, who changed this policy of securing all the pipe for the Canadian portion of the pipeline from Canadian steel mills? I want to ask him whether this reversal of policy has come about as a result of pressure from the U.S. government, and did the Canadian negotiators enter—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now on his third question already. I think two at the most should be taken at a time.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Acting Prime Minister): I have not read the statement of the Prime Minister. Perhaps I can ask the Minister of Labour who was there to answer that question, but the way I understand the question, there was no change in the policy of the government that led the Prime Minister to make that statement. Perhaps the Minister of Labour can answer that question.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is, unintentionally of course, misinterpreting the Prime Minister's remarks. I was there. He said that of course there is a preference for Canadian steel. I was very glad to hear that, as I am sure the whole House is, in terms of employment for Canadians. But the firms have to be competitive. Obviously, it is not at any cost, and the Canadian steel industry knows this. They are very proud of the fact that they are competitive and they will be competitive.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): The statement of the Minister of Labour simply confirms what the Prime Minister said yesterday, that is:

... the federal government will not make consumers pay more for their natural gas by using Canadian steel if it is priced higher than steel from other countries.

In view of the fact that the primary purpose of this pipeline is to take Prudhoe Bay gas from Alaska to gas consumers in the United States—not to Canadian consumers but to U.S.

consumers—does this mean that the government is more concerned about protecting the interests of American gas consumers than they are about protecting the jobs of Canadian workers?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): The answer is unequivocally no.

PROTECTION FOR CANADIAN COMPANIES FROM SUBSIDIZED BIDS ON PIPE FOR NORTHERN GAS PIPELINE

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour has just given an answer that Canadians are to receive preferential treatment. The fact is that before the National Energy Board and in all other statements made by Foothills, Canadian companies were to get all the steel business. I want to ask the Acting Prime Minister, in view of the fact that U.S. Steel Company has just got an order for 80,000 tons of steel for a pipeline to Mexico at knock-down prices which Canadian steel companies say are 20 per cent below the going price, assisted undoubtedly by the DISC program in the United States which subsidizes these companies in order to get into foreign markets, what protection will there be for the Canadian steel producers in this country if these bids are open to competition from the United States and Japan?

● (1452)

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am informed there is a provision to the effect there will be no dumping in those circumstances and that we are well protected against the danger to which the hon. member refers.

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TARIFFS

SUGGESTED REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE TO ENABLE HORTICULTURAL INDUSTRY TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. In 1973 the Tariff Board of Canada was asked to look into the requirement of duty for horticultural products and horticulturally-processed products in the field of agriculture. After four years we have only a summary of the recommendations of that board. Would the minister arrange a reference to a committee of the House so that the horticultural industry might present its claims with respect to the deficiencies of the recommendations of the Tariff Board? There is no time for any means whereby their requirements might be made public.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to consider this possibility and if it is the best way to solve the problem we might accept the suggestion of the hon. member.