

*Oral Questions***ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS****POSSIBILITY OF OIL PIPELINE TO KITIMAT—SUGGESTED REVIVAL OF THOMPSON COMMISSION OR REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, in light of the news which appeared in the media to the effect that the Kitimat consortium has been revived in order to seek permission from the National Energy Board to pipeline Alaskan slope oil across Canadian territory to the United States, I should like to ask the Minister of State for the Environment whether steps are now being made to revive, in turn, after only three or four days demise, the Kitimat oil port inquiry which the minister seems to have contrived to have recessed last Wednesday?

**Hon. Len Marchand (Minister of State (Environment)):** That is a hypothetical question, Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge that there is to be a renewed application before the National Energy Board by the Kitimat oil consortium, and until a serious application is before the National Energy Board we will have nothing further to say about the Thompson inquiry.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, we are obviously reading different newspapers. However, let us assume it to be a hypothetical question, and I do not believe it is on the basis of the information I have, why is the minister not taking advantage of this unscheduled opportunity to hold hearings in case there is a revival of the Kitimat consortium? There has been a great deal of dispute, as the minister knows, about the use of Kitimat as an oil off-loading port. This is an unusual opportunity. Why was the Kitimat oil port inquiry recessed at this unusual moment?

**Mr. Marchand:** Mr. Speaker, the inquiry was recessed at the request of Dr. Andrew Thompson on the basis of the fact that there was no application before the National Energy Board. That being the case, he had no serious basis on which to conduct the hearings he was holding, and when he made the request to us for adjournment we agreed with him.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, again I suggest that the minister and I are not reading the same literature, because Dr. Thompson actually told me he could entertain representations about any oil port on the west coast. Therefore, I do not know where the minister is getting this idea. In fact, my information indicates to me that Dr. Thompson wanted to continue. Would the minister refer the whole question of this inquiry to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry which is empowered to study questions referring to the environment?

**Mr. Marchand:** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. member should check with Dr. Thompson.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** I will.

**Mr. Marchand:** He should check about the meeting he had with us. I have no intention of referring this to the standing

[Mr. Cullen.]

committee on Fisheries and Forestry. I expect when the estimates are before the committee hon. members will want to ask appropriate questions at that time.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** We certainly will.

**Mr. Marchand:** Check your facts and you will find that Dr. Thompson made the request to us to postpone the hearings.

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**NATIONAL HARBOURS BOARD****SUGGESTION GOVERNMENT ACTING IN ANTICIPATION OF PASSAGE OF BILL C-6**

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Transport advise whether his department is now operating in respect of its personnel, and, indeed, in respect of all its activities, as though proposed Bill C-6 dealing with ports was an act of this parliament rather than being before the House very much in its embryonic stage and, if so, how can he justify his disregard for the present law of the land?

● (1502)

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, no, the changes which will be required in the law cannot be acted upon until the legislation is in place. We are dealing with the interim situation to make sure that those who are employed in the National Harbours Board area have some certainty about what the future allows for them. Also, we are taking certain steps open to us under the administrative structure of the current legislation to do certain things in preparation for the future position. In those cases it is allowed under the current legislation and not predicting the effectiveness of the subsequent legislation.

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**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE****ALLEGATION PRIME MINISTER APPROVES ILLEGAL ACTS—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION**

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the right hon. Prime Minister. He is reported to have said in Halifax that he agrees with the illegal RCMP tactics against terrorism, including the Quebec barn burning. Indeed, he is quoted as saying that he agrees entirely with a caller who said: "Let them tear down the barns". We have taken the trouble to check the accuracy of these reports, and we have every reason to believe they are accurate.

I ask the Prime Minister whether he thinks it is suitable for a person in his position, who should be the foremost upholder of law and order, to defend and perhaps even advocate illegal acts.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have made it clear in every public statement I have made that