

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

this operation under the jurisdiction of the National Energy Board?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** At the present time there is no such intention. The authority is there if required. The declaration in regard to gasoline was made in order to render the national oil policy effective, which policy was commencing to break down by reason of the flow of products across the Ottawa valley line. In respect of oil, in the opinion of the government that authority has not been needed to date to make the national oil policy work.

PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—ECOLOGICAL STUDIES—PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Is he now in a position to table the results of research pertaining to environmental problems arising from any pipeline project down the Mackenzie Valley?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, as I think I informed the House the other day, both in the debate and in answer to questions from hon. gentlemen opposite, research is going on in many areas—in the private sector, the universities and within government. Whether or not we could effectively table the results of all these researches I am not sure, but we will certainly consider the situation. Certainly a broad spectrum of knowledge on the part of the public is required on this entire issue.

PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—CONSULTATIONS WITH NATIVE PEOPLE

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Have any consultations between the officials of his department and the native Indian peoples in the north been carried on with respect to the construction of a pipeline through Canada, and are any further such consultations planned?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, we try to keep the Indian and Eskimo people in the North informed of what takes place within certain study committees. Over the past year, representatives of these citizens of the North have participated, with government officials, in some research projects, particularly in the Old Crow and Banks Island regions.

We have asked officials of the industry to include in their teams Eskimo or Indian advisers, and they will carry on with this practice in the future.

[*English*]

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, I repeat the last half of my supplementary question. Are any further such consultations being planned with respect to the construction of this pipeline?

[Mr. Douglas.]

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, we are trying every day to keep them up to date and I can assure the hon. member that they will be kept informed in the weeks and months to come.

[*English*]

PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS WITH TAPS—POSITION OF ALASKA PRODUCERS

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, as a result of the discussions the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has had with the representatives of the companies interested in Alaska oil, is he in a position to tell the House whether a pipeline through Canada, down the Mackenzie valley, is regarded by the Alaska oil producers as being as economically competitive in delivering oil to the Pacific northwest and the mid-western United States as the Alaska pipeline and water route, and if they are not yet convinced that it would be competitive, does the minister consider that he is in a position to convince them that it is economically competitive?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and myself and subsequently other ministers had a very useful meeting today with the presidents of five of the companies who have holdings in the Prudhoe Bay area. We discussed the economics of the various lines. It would appear that the economics of delivery to the west coast are preferably by the Valdez line, but the economics of delivery to the Chicago area may well be preferable by way of an all-Canadian line. According to information I have from our own officials, there would be an advantage of 30 cents a barrel in the latter case.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I shall, of course, recognize the Leader of the Opposition on a supplementary but I will take this opportunity to deliver my usual admonition perhaps a little earlier. I invite hon. members to ask short questions and ministers to give brief answers, with as few supplementaries as possible, in order to give more hon. members the opportunity to ask questions.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I put a supplementary question to the minister. As a result of his discussions, is the minister in a position to tell us how long the representatives of the Alaska oil companies are prepared to wait before they feel it necessary to make a choice with regard to the route?

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, as I understand it the position is that a decision was very clearly made by the oil companies to go by the Valdez line and then by the marine route along the west coast markets, but by reason of the delays caused by various governmental agencies in the United States, by environmental groups and others, that decision has not been implemented. All we are doing is exploring the possibilities of a review of that decision and assuring that Canada proceeds as rapidly as possible