

● (1440)

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

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[Translation]

### PIPELINES

MONTREAL-QUEBEC NATURAL GAS PIPELINE—CONSEQUENCES OF HALTING BRANCH LINE CONSTRUCTION

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

The Government has announced its decision to halt branch line construction on the Montreal-Quebec natural gas pipeline. This move will eliminate thousands of possible job opportunities for construction workers in the province of Quebec.

Could the Minister explain why this decision was made without consulting the communities concerned and without taking into account the commitments given by Progressive Conservative Party candidates during the recent election campaign?

[English]

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my critic from the NDP, on his appointment. I look forward to a cordial relationship with him.

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

**Miss Carney:** Of course his question deals with the issue of the Quebec laterals program which was not cancelled but deferred in the economic statement last week.

I want to assure the Hon. Member that I met with the Quebec Minister of Energy last week before the cuts were announced to discuss the priorities of the Quebec Minister of Energy. The issue of the pipeline will be the subject of further discussion about when we can resume the timing.

**Mr. Waddell:** As to that relationship, I assume that the Minister is speaking for herself.

### ACCESS TO INFORMATION

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question, which is directed to the Prime Minister, concerns getting information about jobs with respect to this pipeline and other topics. I have before me an affidavit sworn in 1977 by the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion in a law case against the Attorney General of Canada, suing the Government for information—

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Hon. Member have a supplementary question?

**Mr. Waddell:** In the affidavit, it is said that—

### Oral Questions

**Some Hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Waddell:** The Conservatives said to the court in their affidavit that their opposition in the House of Commons had been “frustrated and stultified” because they could not get information from the previous Government. Why is it wrong for us to ask for that information about unemployment and other matters that went to the Government?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, not only are the NDP morose, they are unfriendly in this case.

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

**Miss Carney:** I do not believe that that question was supplementary to the first one. I can only reassure him that the information that he requests about the deferring of the Quebec laterals program is in the economic statement and the material tabled by the President of the Treasury Board.

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[Translation]

### ENERGY

REQUEST THAT CHAMBORD-DOLBEAU PIPELINE BE COMPLETED

**Mr. Clément M. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources but it does not deal with cuts.

Under the agreement for the construction of a lateral between Grand-Mère-Chambord-La Baie, there was a commitment of some \$240 million. Since the productivity is excellent in our region, it seems that the costs will rise to some \$210 million, a saving of \$30 million. Can the Minister assure the House that those \$30 million will be used to complete the Chambord-Dolbeau system? If it is not done now, it may never be completed.

[English]

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Member for raising the issue. Again, as I said to the previous questioner, those laterals were deferred, not cancelled. I would also like to congratulate the utility for the work it has done to date. The project has proceeded on time and under budget. As I indicated earlier, the future timing of the laterals is under review.

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### MARINE TRANSPORT

CN MARINE—FERRY SERVICE FARES

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. He knows that under the previous administration's six and five