

tra did not strike up that famous song "How can I believe you when you say you're sorry when I know you've been a liar all your life".

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

**Mr. Crosby:** Nova Scotians and people in Quebec were concerned that the decision with respect to the location of the LNG terminal would be based on political considerations, but the Minister of Finance assured Nova Scotians that the decision would be based on the merits and would be reviewed by the National Energy Board.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Crosby:** I want to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources whether he will confirm that the decision will be based on the merits and will be decided by the National Energy Board. I would also like him to comment on how the Minister of the Environment could even enter into the field when the matter is supposedly before the National Energy Board.

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, my first inclination would be to tell the hon. member, "Play it again, Sam".

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

**Mr. Lalonde:** Without any hesitation I want to state and repeat what I have already stated in Rivière-du-Loup, Gros Cacouna, and this House. This subject is before the National Energy Board for consideration, and the National Energy Board will hold the hearings it is accustomed to holding on such matters. It will hold public hearings and make a public report which will then be submitted to the cabinet. This is the process which has been followed in the past, and it is the same process which will be followed in this case.

As far as the statement attributed to my colleague, the Minister of the Environment is concerned, he has just answered with respect to that statement.

#### EXTENSION OF NATURAL GAS PIPELINE TO MARITIME PROVINCES

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Madam Speaker, I think the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources knows that the National Energy Board is also concerned about the extension of the natural gas pipeline east, but the minister has said that if the board does not approve the application, he will introduce a bill in this House. I want to ask the minister whether he does not think he has undermined the judicial exercise of judgment by the National Energy Board in this matter of the liquid natural gas terminal and in the matter of the extension of the pipeline by this interference and by the remarks made inside and outside this House.

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, as far as the gas pipeline is concerned, the National Energy Board produced a report last

year in which it recommended the extension of the pipeline in Quebec but not in the maritimes. That was the conclusion of the National Energy Board. In developing the National Energy Program the Canadian government came to the conclusion that it was essential and in the national interest to have the pipeline built as far as Halifax to serve both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. This is a national policy decision which has been made by the government in the national interest. We have invited the participants to return to the National Energy Board to pursue their applications. We have indicated quite clearly the decision of the government. We are waiting for the report of the National Energy Board, but the government has indicated that its role is to speak for the people of Canada and the people of the maritimes in particular. We have indicated that we want those people to have access to natural gas on the same basis as people in the rest of Canada, and that is what we intend to provide.

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#### DISASTERS

##### COLDBROOK, N.S.—ASSISTANCE IN AFTERMATH OF FIRE

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for either the Acting Minister of Regional Economic Expansion or the Acting Minister of Agriculture with respect to the very serious fire which destroyed the facilities of Scotian Gold at Coldbrook, Nova Scotia, and the resulting serious blow to the apple and agricultural industry of our province. I am wondering whether either one of these acting ministers can tell us what particular preliminary steps are being taken to come to the aid of that province in this respect?

● (1450)

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Madam Speaker, in answer to the question of the hon. member, to my knowledge, from asking in the department, no request has been made yet of the department for assistance.

**Mr. MacKay:** Madam Speaker, would the parliamentary secretary take into account the desirability of using the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, if their budget is a bit strained at this time, to focus the resources of other appropriate government departments, such as the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, to see what can be done? This is a very serious problem for the agricultural economy; it is of great concern to all members from Nova Scotia, particularly the hon. member for Annapolis Valley in whose constituency it is.

**Mr. MacLellan:** Madam Speaker, I should like to assure the hon. member that if such a proposal is made to the department, certainly the department would review it on its own and in conjunction with other departments.