

[English]

ENERGY

OIL PIPELINE EXTENSION TO MONTREAL—REASON FOR REJECTION OF EXTENSION OF EXISTING SARNIA-TORONTO LINE

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault St. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that half of the proposed Sarnia to Montreal pipeline will be built along an existing oil pipeline from Sarnia to Toronto which has enough space capacity to supply the Montreal region if extended, will the minister explain why the government rejected merely extending the Toronto pipeline, thereby resulting in a saving of time and money?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the answer is the same as the one I gave the hon. gentleman in committee last night, namely, that the size of that pipeline would not be adequate to provide for additional throughput in the case of an emergency in the Montreal market. Whether or not it would be adequate for the first 250,000 barrels a day, it certainly would not be adequate to provide additional security to Montreal.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REASON THAT CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS NOT PROSECUTED FOR THEFT

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General of which I have given him notice. It follows the question I asked on March 6 of this year. Is the Solicitor General now in a position to advise the House as to the reasons the RCMP did not lay charges against any of the six employees of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs for borrowing government goods and taking them to their residences? Can he give the facts and the reasons charges were not laid?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the RCMP made a complete investigation of this case following which they consulted with the Crown prosecutor for the Ottawa area. After consultations the Crown prosecutor advised there was not enough evidence to support a charge and as a result they followed the advice of the Crown prosecutor and no charges were laid.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that under the British North America Act the provinces have control of the administration of the courts but cannot administer something until it is before the courts, or cannot administer something unless a charge is laid, the RCMP must have adopted as their own the reasons of the Crown prosecutor. Therefore I wonder whether we can now be informed what those reasons were? If there was insufficient evidence for the laying of charges, why were these people then subjected to dockage of salary for a certain number of days?

Oral Questions

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, when the evidence is clear the RCMP lay charges without consulting the Crown Attorney or the Crown prosecutor, but when the evidence in a case is not that clear they consult with the Crown Attorney. In this case, on the basis of the total evidence or set of facts put before him, the Crown Attorney advised that there was not enough evidence and the RCMP accepted that advice.

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SPORTS

OLYMPIC COIN PROGRAM—ALLEGED IMPOSITION OF SALES TAX BY MANITOBA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Because of the many problems plaguing the Olympic coin program as far as production, the rise in cost of silver and other things are concerned, and keeping in mind the fact that the government has instructed some banks not to even accept coin orders, will the Prime Minister indicate what steps the government plans to take to clear up these problems of the coin program which is so vital to the success of the Olympics?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, the answer is very simple. The first Olympic coin issue was so successful that there are none left for sale in Canada. Our only problem lies with the packaging of the coins. Measures are taken to support the efforts of the Mint and that is the reason for the delay in the shipment of some of these cases. Further measures will be taken to prevent the same difficulties from arising during the issue of the second series.

● (1200)

[English]

Mr. Jelinek: Since the Postmaster General is answering the question, I wonder how coin sales are doing abroad because I noticed, for example, that in Japan there was an abundance of Olympic coins several months ago, but there was a delay in the first issue of coins in Canada. While I am up, Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Postmaster General what action the federal government is taking to prevent the NDP governments of Manitoba and British Columbia taking a rip-off on the sales of Olympic coins through the imposition of a sales tax which was not originally planned?

[Translation]

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, in answer to the first part of the question, I can say to the hon. member that we have completed the projected sales in Japan and the quotas set for the United States and Europe have been more than met. This means that we had no difficulty selling out the first series of coins. As to the second part of the hon. member's question, he said earlier this week that from now on he would have a thorough knowledge of the facts before asking questions on olympic matters. I suggest therefore that he follow his earlier remarks and get to the bottom of all his questions before putting them.