

*Oral Questions*

future energy options for Canada is completed, the Government will not be considering any grant, loan or policy decision that would permit the construction of a Lepreau II nuclear reactor in New Brunswick?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that during this period when Canadians generally will be able to discuss the energy issues which are basic for the existence and future of this country, the Government has no intention whatsoever to defer decisions concerning major projects. This representation was made by all provinces last January, and again today by interested groups that are advocating projects to ensure Canada's energy security.

[*English*]

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg—Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Is the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources telling the House—it sounds like he is—that the Government is considering negotiating with New Brunswick with respect to federal moneys for the construction of the Lepreau II? Is it the case that a Government which, in 1979 and in 1984 promised a full inquiry into the nuclear industry, is now prepared to go ahead with the construction of a new nuclear reactor before having any kind of debate about energy, nuclear or otherwise in this country?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Unlike the New Democratic Party, Mr. Speaker, this Government is not bent on overly centralizing Canada, and we acknowledge the existence of the provinces and their responsibility in the field of energy. It is up to the Government of New Brunswick to decide whether or not its territory and its citizens are seeking an increase in the electricity sector. It is up to them to decide how these needs are going to be met, be it with coal, nuclear energy, or imports of Quebec hydro-electric power. The New Brunswick Government has not yet made this choice.

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** I should advise Hon. Members that we are a little over time. There will be one more question from the Opposition, the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie, and one government question, and that will conclude Question Period. The Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie).

[*Translation*]

## ENERGY

## SOLIGAZ PROJECT IN MONTREAL EAST—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It deals with the delay in the National Energy Board making decisions on the application by Interprovincial Pipe Line to convert the Sarnia-Montreal pipeline to the transport of national gas liquids. My question to the Minister is this: Can the Minister give the reasons for the delays that have postponed for a year the start-up on the Soligaz project in eastern Montreal, which will create many jobs, and can he reassure people concerning the application by Esso Imperial to reverse the pipeline's flow from Montreal to Sarnia, in order to save the 17,000 jobs in Quebec?

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the whole question of the oil transport infrastructure in Canada is currently under review, as requested by the Quebec Minister of Energy at the federal-provincial meeting. That analysis is therefore being discussed between the Ministers of Energy of the two levels of Government, until the report is made public. I also want to point out to the Hon. Member that no change in the basic operation of a pipeline in Canada can be made without a hearing and a decision by the NEB. For the time being, no such application has been filed.

## REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF PETROMONT'S FUTURE

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. The Minister did not answer the question. What people would like to know is the reasons why the National Energy Board is delaying its decision to save Petromont, to ensure that the Soligaz project in Eastern Montreal is installed, that a number of jobs are created. People would like to have the assurance from the Minister rather than the National Energy Board, they would like to know whether he will turn down the application by Esso Imperial to reverse the flow of oil to the Ontario refineries, which would eliminate Petromont and the 17,000 Quebec jobs.

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, since the representation is directed to the National Energy Board, I will be pleased to pass it on to the Board and to inform you of their answer.