

Inquiries of the Ministry

down the Mackenzie Valley they will have, at least, to meet the standards which have been worked out at the present time?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we intend to do that. I have said many times that we need another summer of research on the tundra to determine the effect of a pipeline on the permafrost.

An hon. Member: Who said that?

Mr. Chrétien: I have said that many times.

Mr. Douglas: The minister should have taken an interest long ago.

Mr. Chrétien: The hon. member is just becoming interested in this matter now. We have been interested in it for two years and next year will be the third year.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the minister, but I suggest that perhaps we are entering the field of debate. I will, of course, allow the minister to complete his answer. As I said a moment ago, we will proceed to the next subject after the minister has completed his reply. I take it that the minister has completed his answer.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY**MINING—MEASURES TO ASSIST NORTHWESTERN QUEBEC**

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the right hon. Prime Minister, I should like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Finance.

In view of the difficult situation in which the northwestern area of Quebec finds itself, where mines have stopped operating thus creating an alarming unemployment rate, does the government intend to take steps so as to help find immediate solutions to this serious problem, and is it presently conducting discussions with the provincial authorities so as to help this region?

[English]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we have not been approached by the province of Quebec in this regard.

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SHIPPING**CONSULTATIONS WITH INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS RESPECTING ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AND HUDSON BAY ROUTES**

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In reply to a question from the hon. member for Mackenzie on Tuesday, the minister mentioned that some of the top people in the insurance fraternity from the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada would be touring the St. Law-

[Mr. Orlikow.]

rence seaway. He also mentioned they would be thoroughly briefed with regard to the Hudson Bay shipping route. Can the minister say how long these people will be in Canada and whether those interested or involved in shipping through the St. Lawrence seaway have been given an opportunity to speak to these people?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, other than the representatives of the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Department, I am not at all certain just how many others have actually met with the group. I know that they spent the last two days on an icebreaker in the St. Lawrence. I will be meeting with them at lunch hour today. I have not yet met these gentlemen. I hope they will return later this year for a firsthand look at the Arctic, but in the meantime we are briefing them fully on it. As far as I am aware, in the first instance their schedule does not permit exhaustive discussions with private parties, nor can we require them to do so. Nevertheless I feel they will get a very thorough and comprehensive awareness of the exact situation.

Mr. Simpson: The minister also mentioned that these people will be invited back later to have a look at shipping through Churchill. Will the minister make every possible effort to see that the officials of the Hudson Bay Route Association and the officials of the Port of Churchill Commission have an opportunity to meet with these people?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to do that. The reason it is not being done at this time, as I am sure the hon. member knows, is that there is not much point in having a firsthand look at the Arctic at this time of the year. We have to wait until shipping actually starts.

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): I wish to ask the minister whether the information garnered from the trip of the *Louis St. Laurent* into Hudson Bay in December and also the trip of the *Manhattan* into Arctic waters will be turned over to these companies for their analysis?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have indicated we will make available to them whatever data we have to convince them that there is not what might be described as extreme or extraordinary hazard involved in ice navigation with the assistance we can now render. Our argument is that rates should be substantially lower on that account.

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INCOME TAX**REPRESENTATIONS BY PREMIER BOURASSA RESPECTING ABANDONING OF PRINCIPLE OF INTEGRATION IN FORTHCOMING LEGISLATION**

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser): My question is for the Minister of Finance. Has the minister received representations from Premier Bourassa within the past week or ten days urging that the government of Canada abandon the principle of integration in the forthcoming tax legislation? If so, what was his reply?