

ENERGY

ABILITY TO MEET CANADIAN REQUIREMENTS FOR GAS AND OIL IN LIGHT OF EXPORTS—RECONSIDERATION OF POLICY

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the warning by Professor Tuzo Wilson that Canada cannot meet its energy needs if it permits continued rapid export to the United States of gas and oil, and in view of the contention by the president of Union Gas that Canadian companies are now unable to let contracts to Canadian customers because of the exports of oil and gas, is the government asking the National Energy Board to reconsider the whole policy in respect of the quantities of gas and oil being exported to the United States?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, government policy on energy will be made public. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has told the House of Commons, and we said it in the Speech from the Throne, that in the course of this session we would put our position before parliament and the country. In the meantime the National Energy Board is conducting hearings on this very question, and I am sure Professor Wilson will have an opportunity to be heard if he so desires.

Mr. Orlikow: In view of the warning by Professor Wilson and the president of Union Gas, will the government give consideration to the proposal made by Mr. Walter Gordon that the oil and gas resources of the high Arctic should be developed by a Crown corporation rather than by private industry?

Mr. Trudeau: We will consider that too. I am sure Mr. Gordon will be happy with the support he is receiving from the NDP.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—STUDY OF FEDERAL INTERESTS AFFECTED—POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION TO POSTPONE PROJECT

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. Has the government formally considered the study done for the Department of the Environment entitled "An Analysis of the Federal Interests Affected by the Proposed James Bay Hydro Development", which deals with the constitutional rights of the Indian and Inuit people and the federal government's responsibility thereto? Has the government reached a decision in respect of this study and has that decision been communicated to the province of Quebec?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of the Environment has discussed this study with me. Perhaps he might be prepared to comment on it. I believe it was the work of a law student during the

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summer. It was studied with interest by the minister, but it does not carry the authority of government policy.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and The Islands): In view of the statement in the report of the Indians of Quebec Association dated October 11, 1972, that the federal government was asked to intervene to get the Quebec government to consent to stopping the project until the project could be made acceptable to the Indian and Inuit people, can the Prime Minister say whether this has been done and what has been the response?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I can only tell the House what I have heard the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development tell the House in the past few days, that there have been discussions with the Quebec Indians and that it had been decided that the best and least paternalistic way to approach the problem would be to subsidize them heavily so they could put their case before the courts. This has been done.

• (1200)

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and The Islands): Is the Prime Minister therefore prepared to make a statement on motions clarifying the federal government's responsibility and position on the constitutional rights of the native people in the James Bay area?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker. I told the House a few days ago that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development would be coming before the House later this session to put before the House a position paper of the government on all these subjects. I hope that, as happened last time, the opposition parties will respond and say the government is doing the right thing.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Prince George-Peace River.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary to a question raised on February 1.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. For the moment, the Chair has recognized the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River. I will recognize the hon. member for Mackenzie later.

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. If he does not accept this student's study of the environment and the rights of native people in the James Bay area, is the government now preparing its own study so that the House may know what the government's stand will be in respect of the Indian people in the James Bay area and their environment?

Mr. Trudeau: I have just indicated to the House, as the hon. member would have known had he been listening, that we would make our views known in this session of parliament. I take it that this is what the hon. member wants.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether it is the position of the government with regard to projects going forward simply to have environmental studies car-