

*Oral Questions*

danger to peace in that the U.S.S.R. is shipping tremendous amounts of munitions to Egypt today, particularly increased since the ceasefire?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I was not aware whether or not the Soviet Union had been shipping armaments to the Arab nations or to any particular one of them since the ceasefire, so I was not in a position to raise this question. I did repeat to the Soviet authorities Canadian policy which is not to ship arms to any area of conflict.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Apparently the minister does not read the *New York Times*.

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## ENERGY

## MOVEMENT OF OIL THROUGH PORTLAND-MONTREAL PIPELINE—STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS RESPECTING CUT-OFFS

**Mr. Ian Arrol (York East):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister resolve the discrepancies between statements made by several ministers with regard to shipment of oil via the Portland-Montreal pipeline inasmuch as two ministers have stated that there will be no oil cut-offs and another has stated that there will be a cut-off of refined oil shipments?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will give me the details of these statements I will look into them and ask the ministers if there was any conflict in fact.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the Leader of the Opposition for a supplementary and then the hon. member for Spadina.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Can the Prime Minister reconcile the statement of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources a few days ago that Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi had said they were banning any shipments to Portland, to be transported by the pipeline to Canada, and the statement of the Secretary of State for External Affairs yesterday that to his knowledge no such ban existed?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I think the distinction is that there is no boycott of the shipping of oil to Canada by any of those states, but two of them have chosen not to ship oil to Canada by way of landing it in the United States at Portland.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN AZORES

**Mr. Peter Stollery (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact an estimated 3,000 families were made homeless over the weekend by an earthquake in the Azores which levelled some 80 per cent of the houses on

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

the island of Pico and on the north side of the island of Faial, and as the local authorities are removing people from the small villages of these two islands because of safety hazards, may I ask the minister what the government of Canada is doing to assist in this emergency affecting relatives of many Portuguese Canadians?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, this tragedy has been under consideration in the department and I can say that we will be making a decision within the next few days on a proper response in the way that I know the Canadian people would wish us to make it.

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## ENERGY

## EXTENSION OF OIL PIPELINE TO MONTREAL—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 4

**Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Last Friday, in the question period, I referred to the Prime Minister's statement on page 6184 of *Hansard* for September 4, which did not indicate that the Prime Minister had announced a decision to build a pipeline to Montreal. The Prime Minister said he would have to check what other words were used. Can the Prime Minister now inform us if he or his staff have located anything to substantiate his claim that he announced on September 4 the decision to build the pipeline?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, and I did not want to convey the impression that on that day I had suggested anything different from what was quoted by the hon. member. What I did indicate on September 4 was that we had indicated the direction in which our policy was to proceed. Subsequent statements by various ministers of the government and myself have put that September 4 statement in a much clearer context, which is one of a firm determination that the pipeline should proceed.

[Later:]

**Mr. McKinnon:** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Prime Minister. It has to do with the decision-making process. Last night the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources indicated, in reply to a question from the hon. member for Regina East as recorded in *Hansard*, page 8149, that discussions with the province of Quebec have not reached an agreement in principle for the construction of the pipeline. Is it the government's decision to construct such a pipeline whether the government of Quebec agrees or not?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I believe the minister did answer this question quite firmly, that we have a responsibility for assuring security of supply, but at this stage we have no doubt that the province of Quebec will see the validity of that position.