

Oral Questions

● (1440)

[English]

OIL EXPORT TAX—DURATION OF POLICY—ALBERTA
POSITION ON PROPOSED PIPELINE EXTENSION TO
MONTREAL

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources along the same lines. Is this 40 cents surtax per barrel of crude petroleum a temporary policy or a permanent policy?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the intention would be, subject to the approval of parliament, to attempt to separate the Canadian price of crude oil from the fast rising price of crude oil in the United States, and it would continue, we expect, until, if ever, there is parity between the two.

Mr. Woolliams: The minister said that he met the Minister of Energy for Alberta and other officials. Was the Montreal pipeline discussed with those representatives of Alberta, and what was the result of that discussion? Were they in favour of it or in favour of the government vetoing its own decision?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the Montreal pipeline was among the subjects discussed. The Alberta position was to note very carefully the explanation we gave them. They intend to respond early in October.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A number of hon. members are seeking to ask supplementaries on this subject. Perhaps we might see a few other members and then return to the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain and the hon. member for Waterloo-Cambridge.

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TRANSPORT

SUGGESTED PROVISION OF FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND NEWFOUNDLAND IN LIGHT
OF RECENT STRIKE

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Can the minister advise whether any plans are being devised, by way of legislation or by way of the creation of an agency, to provide ferry service between Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland in order to prevent a recurrence of the disruption of ferry services between those islands and the mainland as a result of the recent strike?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this is something we are looking into. While there is a constitutional obligation on Canada to provide service to Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland there is, on the other hand, the fundamental right in law to strike. We have to reconcile all this. This is why I am looking into the problem and I hope we will find a solution.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

ESTIMATE OF COST OF SETTLEMENT OF NATIVE CLAIMS

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Now that details of missing documents have been made public through CJOH, will the minister say how the government arrived at the figure of \$3 billion as the total cost of settlement of native claims, and will the minister say whether a recognition of the concept of aboriginal rights would change the government's estimate?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I cannot make any comment because I do not know whether those documents are valid or not. However, the House and the Indians are well acquainted with the departmental position on Indians. We are ready in the localities where there is no treaty to negotiate settlements with the Indians and we hope to render them justice. As for their costs, we will know what they are when the settlements will have been reached between both parties.

[English]

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Would the minister advise the House concerning native claims for lands that are now lost? Is the only form of settlement contemplated by the government a cash or compensation settlement, and has the government ruled out the restoration of that land to the native people?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, we have not ruled out that possibility. We have said in many cases that they could involve some lands. In my dealings with the British Columbia government I made representations to the effect that some Indians in B.C. would like to have land rather than cash. It is the same thing in the James Bay area, and I have made that comment to the Quebec government.

ACCEPTANCE BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF
OBLIGATIONS UNDER QUEBEC BOUNDARIES EXTENSION
ACT TO PEOPLE OF JAMES BAY AREA—GOVERNMENT
POSITION

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Is it the position of the government that the provinces must, and I emphasize the word "must", meet their constitutional commitments respecting native claims and, if so, what specific action has the government taken since April to ensure that Quebec accepts its obligations under the Quebec Boundaries Extension Act for the native people of the James Bay area?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we have provided