

possibly render if, indeed, this were found acceptable by the government of Alberta.

Mr. Symes: My supplementary is directed to the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister assure the House that if a decision is made to provide federal funds or other assistance to the Syncrude project to ensure that tar sands oil is available to us in the early 1980s, the federal government will take equity in the project proportional to the financial assistance made available?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I take the question as a representation and I will consider it.

[Translation]

SARNIA-MONTREAL PIPELINE—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Can the minister tell us whether a decision has been taken about the construction of the oil pipeline from Sarnia to Montreal?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the Cabinet took a decision on this and we are having negotiations with Interprovincial Pipeline Limited.

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Since it has been announced that there will be no oil left in the west when the oil pipeline is ready for operation and given the cost of such a pipeline, does the minister think such capital investment is justified?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, we think that in the near future, as well as in the distant future, such a pipeline will be to the benefit of Canada, particularly as regards the security of the Montreal market.

[English]

ATHABASCA OIL SANDS—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ENSURE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question relates to that asked by the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie. It is addressed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Since the withdrawal of Atlantic Richfield is the second major set-back suffered in connection with this project—Atlantic Richfield is the second major company to withdraw from this project to develop the Athabasca tar sands—and since the reason for the withdrawals in both cases is vacillation in government policy and economic instability as far as the petroleum industry is concerned, can the minister tell us what steps, if any, he is planning to take in order to bring about a feeling of confidence in this area as it relates to government policy to ensure that development does not stop?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Neither the decision of Shell Explorer nor the decision of ARCO was taken for the reasons stated by the hon. member. The decision of ARCO was taken in the

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light of the cash position in which the company finds itself because of its involvement in the Alyeska Pipeline project resulting in the cancellation of a number of other projects including one involving oil shale in the United States. It was obviously decided to give higher priority to Alyeska. The Shell Explorer decision was reached specifically because of the decision not to permit the export of Canadian oil unless surplus to Canadian requirements. I think that is a sound policy; it is one which we on this side of the House, at least, support.

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

EFFECT OF STATEMENTS BY MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES CONCERNING ALBERTA MINISTERS

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Speaking in Regina only last week, the right hon. gentleman said:

If we are to remain strong as a country, federal-provincial differences will have to be hammered out on the basis of a fundamental belief in the other fellow's honesty.

I want to ask the Prime Minister if he considers the statements made in this House on Thursday night by the Minister of Energy that Premier Lougheed is acting in a vicious way and that the remarks of the interprovincial affairs minister, Mr. Don Getty, were dripping with venom, are in harmony with his plea for goodwill on both sides?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. Frankly, what I had in mind was the kind of allegation made by the other side, particularly the allegation that we had acted in bad faith in connection with this matter. I find that very poor—

Some hon. Members: Oh!

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—POSSIBLE REQUEST OF PRIME MINISTER TO SEE RCMP INTERIM REPORT

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister and it refers back to the subject of the SIU. Did the right hon. gentleman ask to see the interim report of the RCMP investigation concerning the Minister of Labour and, if so, what action has he taken as a result of that report?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): As is customary, the Solicitor General reported to me on investigations which are going on, particularly when there are allegations which involve ministers of my cabinet. He made me aware of this preliminary or interim report.