

Mr. Stanfield: Has any machinery been established for a joint assessment and joint examination of the dangers by representatives of the two countries?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, in a sense that was what was going on yesterday and I hope will be continuing today. Our officials, who carry the full authority of the Canadian government in all these negotiations, have been making known to the United States government our concerns about the ecological dangers. So far we have not been satisfied with the replies we have received, and I do believe we have pointed out to the United States government some of the inadequacies in the consideration they have given to this project.

PROPOSED TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM—WASHINGTON MEETING—USE OF ECOLOGICAL STUDIES IN CANADIAN PRESENTATION TO UNITED STATES OFFICIALS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, some days ago I asked the Minister of Transport if ecological studies had been made by his department regarding the danger of the pollution of the coastal waters of British Columbia and he indicated that such studies were going on. I now want to ask the Acting Prime Minister if the results of these studies, and any others that were carried on by the Department of Fisheries and Forestry or the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, were part of the presentation made yesterday by the Canadian officials in their meeting with the government representatives of the United States?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman may not have listened very carefully to the presentation I made. If he will read it in *Hansard* he will see that it is precisely these points that our officials brought to the attention of the United States authorities.

PROPOSED TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM—NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES PRESIDENT OR CABINET MEMBERS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): In view of the statement made by Mr. George Lincoln, chairman of the president's oil policy committee, to the effect that the Canadian government had not been very enthusiastic about supporting an alternate route and that the American government would welcome direct contacts with the Canadian government regarding the whole question of transporting oil from Alaska to the United States, does the government intend to have direct discussions? Does the minister himself intend to meet with Mr. Rogers, or does the Prime Minister intend to have direct negotiations with the President of the United States regarding this whole question of moving oil from Alaska to the United States?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, at the present time there is no application for building a pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley. I am quite sure the hon. gentleman would be the first in this House to rise in his place and say that he hopes the Canadian

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government is protecting the environment of the north of Canada as well as the Pacific coast before any plans are undertaken to build a pipeline. I am quite sure that this is the position he would want us to be in. Therefore I would suggest that he, no more than the government, is saying, "a pipeline at any cost down the Mackenzie Valley".

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A number of hon. members are seeking to ask supplementaries, including the hon. member for Calgary North and the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. I think in fairness to all hon. members I should at this point recognize the hon. member for Témiscamingue and return to the hon. members in a moment.

Mr. Douglas: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the Acting Prime Minister is seeking to direct my remarks in an entirely erroneous direction. At no time did I suggest that the choice was between the TAPS program—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that what he is raising now is not a point of order. Perhaps he will have an opportunity in a moment to clarify matters by a supplementary question, but I think the time has come to give an opportunity to the hon. member for Témiscamingue to ask a question also.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

FARMS PRODUCTS MARKETING BILL—POSSIBLE DELAY IN THIRD READING

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

I wonder whether he is awake or sleeping. Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the minister. He seemed to be resting so well.

My question is as follows: Does the minister intend to delay the consideration of the motion for third reading of Bill C-176 pending the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada on that question?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): No, Mr. Speaker. There is new law contained in Bill C-176 that is not before the Supreme Court at the present time.

Mr. Baldwin: Bad law.

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OIL

PROPOSED TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM—SUGGESTION OF ALTERNATIVE ROUTE BY CANADIAN OFFICIALS AT WASHINGTON MEETING

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, in light of what the Secretary of State for External