

*Oral Questions*

cleaners and holding the Government of Canada up to black-mail, and the government is backing down. I repeat, if we are putting up the dollars for risk investment in the energy sector, surely the Government of Canada should be saying that the people of Canada ought to get equity for every cent they put up. I ask the minister why this is not so.

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, under this offer, Canadians will receive profits in proportion to their investments, if any profits are made. We shall have a 50 per cent equity in the project, and we shall be getting 50 per cent of any profits, in addition to the taxes, royalties, etc., that will be paid by the private sector partners in this specific project.

The hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party believes that the offer made by both governments was too generous. If, for some reason, participants in the consortium were to announce this afternoon that they were not going ahead with the project, I am sure the hon. member would rise in the House and accuse us of not having been generous enough.

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[English]

**INCOME TAX****QUERY RESPECTING PROPOSAL TO COLLECT TAX FROM FISHERMEN AT SOURCE**

**Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue and concerns the announcement made by the Minister of Finance in the November budget regarding the mandatory income tax deduction at source for fishermen. Does the government still plan to implement this policy, and when is it going to announce to the fishermen what percentage it will take from them when they land their catch at the buyer's wharf?

**Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for this question. First of all there is no deduction at source in 1982. No requirement for that has gone out from the department because we have no legal authority until such time as the act is amended.

● (1130)

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Epp:** Allan MacEachen doesn't think so.

**Mr. Rompkey:** What the Minister of Finance did in a very responsive and responsible way, Madam Speaker, was to accede to the request of myself and other members of Parliament, and indeed fishermen and of at least one fishermen's union, to provide the legal authority for deducting fishermen's taxes at source. How that authority is administered is up to my department, and we are in the process of deciding how that is to be done.

I might say that on Wednesday morning the Atlantic Liberal caucus had a full discussion on this matter, some eminently reasonable suggestions were put forward, we are looking at them, and my department will announce shortly how we intend to administer the law after 1982. I can assure the hon. member and the fishermen that it will be administered in the best interests of the fishermen.

**Mr. Gass:** Madam Speaker, I am really glad to hear that it is not going ahead in 1982. However, my question would be: does this apply to the freshwater and west coast fishermen as well?

**COLLECTION OF TAX ARREARS FROM PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FISHERMEN**

**Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque):** Madam Speaker, a fisherman in Prince Edward Island who owns a boat and has a helper pays 20 per cent of his catch to the helper. Fishermen who are behind in their taxes are being charged 25 per cent of their catch this year to pay for their tax arrears. So, if the government went ahead with this 20 per cent advance payment of taxes, it would force fishermen out of business; there is no doubt in my mind about that. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has said repeatedly there are too many fishermen in the business. Therefore, is this a policy by the government to force fishermen out of the business deliberately, thereby reducing the number of fishermen?

**Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue):** Madam Speaker, it is because of the policies of this government, particularly the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, that fishermen are—

**Mr. Epp:** In the mess they are in.

**Mr. Rompkey:**—in the very improved situation they are in today where they can make suggestions and recommendations like this, and we can change the law on their behalf. I think I answered part of that question previously; it will apply to all fishermen all across Canada at such time as the law is changed and implemented.

I repeat that no instructions have gone out from my department for 1982. When the law is changed, then my department will implement it in the best interests of the fishermen.

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**PIPELINES****FUTURE OF ALASKA GAS PIPELINE PROJECT—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Yesterday he was unable to give us satisfactory answers regarding the Alaska gas pipeline, so today I will give him the opportunity to give us a little better performance.

The minister knows that we on this side are very concerned about the possibility of 250,000 man-years of work being lost if