

## INDUSTRY

## STEEL—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE CANADIAN PIPE USED IN CONSTRUCTION OF NORTHERN GAS PIPELINE

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank the Prime Minister for that unwanted lecture. I know all about the \$4 billion, I know all about the 400,000 man-years of work and all about the one million tons of steel. Let me go to the other minister who knows something about this matter, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I resent the evasive answers that this minister has given and the one the Prime Minister just gave.

● (1452)

Is the minister aware of the fact that there is a substantial lobby now in place not only by steel producers but also by unions, enhanced by Senators Jackson, Stevens and Durkin, who do not want any preferential treatment going toward Canada? If he is not aware of it, would he kindly get on the ball and go to his counterparts in the United States and advise them of the concern which has been registered around here and ascertain from them just how he is going to assure and guarantee Canadian content? Is the minister aware of that concern, and before he brings in legislation, which is almost on the books, will he see his American counterparts and follow the suggestions I just made?

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the concern of Senators Jackson and Stevens and others in the United States with regard to having as much work done in the United States as possible and to receiving gas as cheaply as possible.

However, let me explain just briefly the basic criteria which is now to be decided. First, there is the matter of pressure. The Americans want to build a pipeline with a pressure of something over 1,600 pounds. We say there is no pipeline yet built in the world with that amount of pressure. We want to build the pipeline with a pressure of less than 1,200 pounds. That pressure determines the thickness of the wall of the pipe. That decision is for Canadians to make, not Americans, so hon. members can readily see that we are in the driver's seat with regard to the size of the pipe, whether it be 48 inches, 52 inches or 54 inches, and with regard to the thickness of the wall. If we make the right decision in that regard—and I have no hesitation in saying that I am fully confident that we will—then we will make available to Canadian suppliers the opportunity to produce the total length of the pipe.

When we make that opportunity of producing something in the neighbourhood of 3,000 miles of pipe available to Canadian suppliers, we ask them to be competitive because we do not believe we entered into an agreement with the United States so that we could force them to pay for a pipeline built in a non-competitive environment and because in the end American consumers are going to have to pay for the building of the pipeline. It would be foolish of us to think that their government would enter into an agreement with us which would

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allow us to build a pipeline in an environment which is not competitive.

So I assure the hon. member that Canadians will get every possible opportunity to supply the components for that pipeline. Of course, we are asking Canadian suppliers to remain as competitive as possible to meet the challenge.

**Mr. Alexander:** That answer means absolutely nothing to me.

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

**Mr. Alexander:** All the minister has said is that he is going to give an opportunity,—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Alexander:** I was just going to get to the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Rather than express an opinion I wonder if the hon. member would put his supplementary question.

**Mr. Alexander:** In that I have expressed my opinion, regardless of the possibility of bidding, all I want to know is what the minister is going to do to guarantee Canadian content. That is the basis of that agreement, and I want to know whether the minister is going to go to the United States and advise his American counterparts and all those involved that he expects preferential treatment for Canadians. Does he intend to guarantee that? Is the minister going to do that, or is he going to sell out to the American consumer at the expense of Canadian steelworkers and jobs for Canadians? That is what I want to know from the minister.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question in its form is a repetition of the one asked earlier.

**Mr. Alexander:** He has not answered it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Further, it is a repetition of questions answered on two occasions by other ministers.

**Mr. Alexander:** With all due respect—

**Some hon. Members:** Sit down.

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## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

## CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DEPARTURE FROM FORCE OF L. J. BENNETT

**Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Solicitor General I would like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister tell the House whether the government is prepared to reveal the mysterious circumstances surrounding the departure from Canada of Leslie James Bennett of the RCMP, and was one of the conditions that he not reveal the contents of the Featherbed file?