

*Inquiries of the Ministry*POTATOES—ASSURANCE TO PRODUCERS RESPECTING
SEED EXPORT MARKET

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, could the minister now give an indication, following the meeting with the Ministers of Agriculture for Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, as to what assurance the potato producers in these provinces will have with regard to the very vital seed export market to the United States which has been very much in jeopardy because of the appreciation in the value of the Canadian dollar and the recently invoked 10 per cent import surtax in the United States?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I think there is a measure of assurance contained in the speech I made to the House about two and a half weeks ago.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, since I believe it was obvious from the minister's speech that these two provincial ministers wanted to meet him in order to obtain some specific assurance that the very important seed exports to the United States from their provinces which have already been jeopardized to some degree will not further deteriorate, is the minister not able to offer some indication to the many producers in these two provinces as to the extent of any assurance?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, in that speech I dealt with the differences in how processed and non-processed products would be handled. I do not think I could add anything that would be useful because it was such a clear speech that I think it should be understandable.

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OIL

POSSIBLE PIPELINE THROUGH CANADA TO TRANSPORT
ALASKAN OIL—DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CANADIAN AND
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister arising out of the statement made by the Secretary of the Interior of the United States indicating that delay in the planning of the Alaska route may result in a decision to build a pipeline from Prudhoe Bay through Canadian territory to the United States. I wish to ask the right hon. gentleman whether there have been any discussions between the Canadian government and the government of the United States regarding such a pipeline in recent weeks or months and, if so, by whom have these discussions been conducted?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any discussions which have been held in recent weeks or even in the last few months. I am not aware of any discussions having taken place since that which was last mentioned in the House, and I believe that was late in the spring or early in the summer.

[Mr. Olson.]

POSSIBLE PIPELINE THROUGH CANADA TO TRANSPORT
ALASKAN OIL—PROVISION OF DATA AND STUDIES TO
U.S. TASK FORCE

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Has the Canadian government provided any data or studies or any access to Canadian soil to the United States government for the gathering of data for their pipeline task force headed by Mr. Jack Horton?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether there have been some official exchanges between the Canadian and American governments in that connection. I know that some studies are now being made by the Canadian government and private enterprise.

As for the American decision, we are not better informed than other members; we know that President Nixon has made a statement and that the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Morton, came out with two apparently contradictory declarations. We are considering the situation and we will be reporting to the House, if necessary.

• (3:20 p.m.)

POSSIBLE PIPELINE THROUGH CANADA TO TRANSPORT
ALASKAN OIL—NOTICE OF MODIFICATION OF UNITED
STATES POSITION

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): I wonder whether the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development could indicate whether he was given any advance notice by Mr. Rogers Morton, United States Secretary of the Interior, of his announcement three days ago that he was changing his position and for the first time would consider a Canadian route as an alternative to the Prudhoe to Valdez route?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): No, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Again I bring to the attention of hon. members that we are rapidly running short of time. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Fraser Valley West for one last supplementary question on the subject.

POSSIBLE PIPELINE THROUGH CANADA TO TRANSPORT
ALASKAN OIL—ASSESSMENT OF ECOLOGICAL STUDIES
BEFORE APPROVAL

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can combine my two supplementary questions into one. I should like to ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development whether he can assure the House that before the Mackenzie Valley route is approved, all ecological studies and their implications will be thoroughly assessed? Further, when does the minister think he will be in a position to give a definitive answer, yes or no, to the Mackenzie route based on independent Canadian investigation?