

Inquiries of the Ministry

Canada it now serves, would the Canadian government be prepared to intervene at the hearing to ask the National Energy Board to take whatever steps are necessary to get the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company to extend its pipeline, particularly in view of the fact that there is a conflict of interest in that it is owned by a company which is bringing Venezuelan oil into the Montreal market?

Mr. Trudeau: Well, Mr. Speaker, this would seem to be hypothetical; if the company does feel it is an economic proposition and if it should make an application, then I am sure if these hypotheses are met the National Energy Board will hear them fairly.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a final supplementary. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether it is the government's intention to leave this matter entirely to the discretion of the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company in view of the fact that it is owned by an American company which is bringing in oil from Venezuela and is therefore unwilling to have western Canadian oil brought to the Montreal area in competition with their own oil from Venezuela?

Mr. Trudeau: I am asked what the government's intention would be in a hypothetical situation. I do not think the government can answer that.

SUGGESTED FEASIBILITY STUDY OF ECONOMICS OF
BUILDING PIPELINE FROM WEST TO SERVE
EASTERN CANADA

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): My question is along the same lines. Two days ago I asked the Prime Minister whether the government would set up an economic study on the feasibility of building a pipeline to eastern markets. I drew to the Prime Minister's attention that other ministers had said they would leave it to free enterprise. In view of the fact that the same corporation that might transport crude petroleum to the east is also importing it into Canada, would the Prime Minister now consider establishing an independent economic study to look into the feasibility of building and extending the pipeline in question?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will refer the matter to the minister responsible.

Mr. Woolliams: May I follow that through, Mr. Speaker. May I bring to the Prime Minister's attention, with the greatest respect, that two days ago he took this question as notice. I understood from that that he would give me an answer.

Mr. Trudeau: When I take a question as notice for other ministers it is referred to the ministers so they can answer the questions that should be asked of them.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he does not think this is a question of some national importance in which he might take some initiatives?

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

REDUCTION IN DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

Can he tell us whether he is satisfied to see the government increasing its expenditures for fiscal year 1971-72 by \$1,400 million while reducing by almost \$30 million the budget of agriculture, that of the most underprivileged class of society?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's question is argumentative. He is asking a minister whether he is satisfied with a certain situation, thus inviting the minister to express an opinion. If the hon. member has no objection, I will say the question is out of order.

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[English]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio who answers for Information Canada. It relates to the booklet referred to earlier by the hon. member for Moose Jaw. In view of the fact that this rhapsody in blue constitutes a blurb and puffery for the Liberal government, will the minister see that equal funds are made available out of the public purse for the opposition parties to deal with the same issue?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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INDUSTRY

GUIDELINES RESPECTING SALE OF COMPANIES TO
FOREIGN INTERESTS

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he can indicate to the House whether the government now has guidelines under which industry can operate so they do not have to operate under the handicap of government intervention when sales are contemplated and particularly when negotiations are in progress?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I did not get the purport of the question.

Mr. Skoreyko: I will ask it again. Can the minister indicate to the House whether the government now has guidelines under which businesses in Canada can operate so that they do not have to operate under the handicap of government intervention when sales are contemplated, and particularly when they are being negotiated?

Mr. Sharp: I do not see why this question concerns in particular the Secretary of State for External Affairs.