

very important changes, not merely cosmetic ones, to the airport which will improve it for the convenience of passengers. We have done that particularly with the Commonwealth Games in mind.

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PARLIAMENT HILL

OCCUPATION OF EAST BLOCK AFTER RENOVATION

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. As the renovations in the east block of the parliament buildings are progressing, I wonder if the minister could advise the House who is going to occupy those offices upon completion of the renovations? Specifically, will it be the senators.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. With all due respect to the minister, that matter seems to fall under my area of responsibility.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

KITIMAT PIPELINE—TIMETABLE PROPOSED FOR CONSTRUCTION—CONSIDERATION BY NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. According to a CBC report, the minister made a statement on the west coast over the weekend indicating that the National Energy Board will probably complete its work on the Kitimat pipeline by September, but no action will be taken until the Thompson inquiry has completed its work. I would ask the minister if that is an accurate report. If it is not, will the minister give us some idea of the timetable which the four ministers responsible for this matter have in mind?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I do not believe my words were reported accurately. I did indicate that following the request of my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the National Energy Board would address itself to the question of supply and requirements, and that the Kitimat proposal would not be looked at by the National Energy Board until such time as the NEB had looked at these initial questions. I have been away for a week travelling in British Columbia, so that some details may have escaped me.

With respect to the Thompson inquiry, the ministers have not yet had a discussion as to when or whether it will be continued. As the hon. member knows, it was recessed at Dr. Thompson's request. He is writing an interim report, and obviously we would want to see that report before going any further.

Oral Questions

● (1502)

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that it would seem virtually impossible for the National Energy Board to make an intelligent assessment of the proposed Kitimat pipeline until they receive the report of the Thompson inquiry, can the minister assure the House that no action will be taken and no decision reached by the National Energy Board until the Thompson inquiry has completed its work and reported its findings?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, my colleague indicated that the future of the Thompson inquiry, the further work it may be called upon to do, and when we will receive its report, is still not known. It is important to emphasize that before the Energy Board considers the application for the Kitimat pipeline it should examine the question of how important it is to Canada, and how important it is to British Columbia, that there be an oil port of entry on the west coast. That is what they have been asked to do, and that is what they are going to turn their attention to before they examine the Kitimat pipeline application.

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GRAIN

POSSIBILITY ELEVATOR AT MOOSE JAW ABLE TO SERVICE CHURCHILL—REQUEST FOR STUDY

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the fact that studies regarding a new terminal elevator at Yorkton to service the port of Churchill, as recommended by the Hall commission, have concluded that such a terminal is not viable, and in view of the fact that the government elevator at Moose Jaw has the capacity and facilities to service the port of Churchill and is only some 150 miles farther removed than Yorkton, is the minister prepared to carry out a feasibility study to determine whether the facilities at Moose Jaw can be used to service the port of Churchill?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we will certainly be looking at all the ways in which we will be able to improve the use of Churchill. The use of inland terminals is one of those ways. It does pose certain problems in terms of the gathering of grain in the district surrounding the terminal. We will have to weigh that as well. I do not quite accept the hon. member's use of words in saying that the study found the terminal in the Yorkton area not to be viable. It said there were some very high costs in connection with that terminal, but the viability of it in improving Churchill will depend upon an assessment of many other matters, including the relative rail costs and the relative advantages to the Canadian Wheat Board of being able to sell grain through Churchill. That work will also continue.