

Oral Questions

possible with construction of an oil pipeline to Montreal to enable the east to share in Canada's natural resources?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the reasons which caused the government to take a decision in principle in favour of the Montreal pipeline, as announced by the Prime Minister, have been more than ever confirmed by our experience both with the threatened Arab cutoff of oil and the very substantial price increases. It would be my intention, therefore, to meet with my counterparts in the Quebec government, after their substantial victory, to see if we can complete arrangements for such a pipeline in concert with plans they might have for petroleum development in that province.

An hon. Member: Where are you going to get the oil?

OIL PRICE INCREASES—STUDY OF IMPACT ON CONSUMERS AND INDUSTRY IN QUEBEC AND ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance related to the question put by the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate. In light of the significant importance of the cost of living and the effect of the announcement by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources last evening on particular industries, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he has undertaken any detailed study of the impact of these changes, particularly in view of the indication of what is to come, as they relate to Quebec and the Atlantic provinces? Has such a detailed study of the effects on the consumer and industry been undertaken?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Yes, Sir, it is being undertaken.

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AIR TRANSPORT

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS ON ROUTES—REASON FOR DENIAL OF ROUTE TO SASKATCHEWAN—CHARTER ROUTES

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and has to do with negotiations that have been going on for some four years between Canada and the United States in connection with air routes. I ask this question as a member from the province of Saskatchewan. Why is it that the province of Saskatchewan has been denied the right to one air route into the United States?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not think that any route was denied to Saskatchewan.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Absolutely.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): No airline indicated that it was interested in having a route from Saskatchewan to the United States.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Herbert.]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, surely the minister's memory is better than that. Did he not meet recently with the Attorney General of Saskatchewan and representatives of three cities, Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina, in connection with this matter? Has he forgotten?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not forgotten that, but I think that the airlines, and perhaps they are wrong—

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is not what I asked you.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Well, you do not know my answer so you do not yet know what I am going to say. The airlines maintain that they cannot operate these routes economically, but the government of Saskatchewan has another point of view and it is working with my department to see whether this is possible or feasible, and whether somebody will show an interest in these routes.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, it just shows you how forgetful the minister was a moment ago when he decided to delude the House. I should now like to ask him a question in connection with charter routes into Canada. Has he received a resolution for the pilots' association in opposition to the denial of any further charter routes into Canada in connection with the agreement about to be entered into? Has he received that or has he forgotten about that too?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I have received a wire, but not saying what the hon. gentleman suggests.

Mr. Diefenbaker: He got a wire but does not know what it said. Was it in both languages?

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[Translation]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND QUEBEC PREMIER—SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Could he tell us if he has himself invited Premier Bourassa to meet him this afternoon, or if this is an initiative taken by the Quebec Premier?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would be at complete loss to reply to such a question, but I think that this was agreed upon between ourselves. I phoned the Quebec premier after his extraordinary victory the very night of the elections and he and I have agreed to meet as soon as possible, in fact today.

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a supplementary to the right hon. Prime Minister. Could he disclose the main issues which will appear on the agenda of his discussions with the Quebec premier or at least could he say whether the constitutional reform or the eventual shortage of oil in Quebec will be discussed?