

examine the feasibility of the Queen's University study. However, the hon. gentleman will recall that that was with respect to the Mackenzie valley rather than the Yukon.

OIL—POSSIBLE SHARING OF RESOURCES BY OECD COUNTRIES IN EVENT OF MIDDLE EAST CUT-OFF—CANADIAN PARTICIPATION—BILATERAL APPROACH

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister a question in reference to his statement that the OECD members propose to have some sharing of their oil resources in the event of a Middle East oil cut-off. What surplus of oil does Canada have to contribute to such a plan, have any commitments been made, and is the minister making any approaches to Venezuela or any of the OPEC countries regarding a bilateral agreement to assure security of supply in the event of Middle Eastern oil being cut off?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the OECD discussion is with regard to offshore supplies of oil coming to Canada, the United States, western Europe, Japan and Australia. For that reason it is not so much a question of Canada contributing to it but of the way in which offshore supplies would be dealt with. With respect to the bilateral approach suggested by the hon. gentleman, he will recall that Dr. Howland advised the standing committee that one of the aspects of the OECD agreement is that there should not be in effect competitive bilateral deals between various members of the OECD and the OPEC countries because of the competitive element that this would bring about.

TRANSPORT OF OIL FROM NORTH—CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS STUDY

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether he would inquire about the studies carried out by the Canadian National Railway in respect of railway construction in the far north, and if they will be made available to committees of the House?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the department and the CNR have carried out and are still proceeding with detailed studies on the possibility of constructing a railroad to Northern Canada, but the reports are not yet completed.

[English]

PROPOSED WEST COAST OIL TANKER ROUTE—ALLEGED LACK OF DEPARTMENTAL CO-ORDINATION OF OPPOSITION

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question concerning the shipment of oil which I should like to direct to the attention of the Minister of the Environment. Is he aware of the statement by Dr. McTaggart Cowan, Director of the Science Council of Canada, to the effect that he is concerned about the apparent lack of a co-ordinated effort by the Department of the Environment and the Department of Transport in

Oral Questions

respect of opposing and being ready to meet the threatened shipment of oil down the B.C. coast in particular?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I understand this comment was contained in a report that was finalized about a year ago.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that his question simply asked whether the minister was aware of a statement, and to that extent it would hardly be in order.

* * *

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SUGGESTION THAT BILL C-125 BE PROCEEDED WITH BEFORE EASTER ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the President of the Privy Council.

Since Bill C-125 amending the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1971 includes fine provisions, can the President of the Privy Council assure us that it will be studied before the Easter holiday?

[English]

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I doubt whether that would be possible.

Mr. Hees: I rather doubt that it is possible in view of the way it has been shifted or put aside, and we know why, Al.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

* * *

NATIONAL SECURITY

POLICE AND SECURITY PLANNING AND ANALYSIS GROUP—INQUIRY AS TO USE OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT TO MONITOR CONVERSATIONS

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Solicitor General. Can he advise the House whether the offices of the police and security planning and analysis group, newly expanded and located next to the minister's own departmental office, include sophisticated electronic equipment capable of monitoring conversations in other offices or rooms or via telephone?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nielsen: I should like to ask the minister a supplementary question. Is he prepared to arrange a familiarization visit by Members of Parliament, perhaps the members of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, to the offices of the police and security planning and analysis group, with such visit to include the communications room known as "Interex"?

Mr. Allmand: I will look into the possibility of that, Mr. Speaker.