

NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS

QUERY RESPECTING UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
COMMITMENTS

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton South): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The North-South dialogue between the developed and developing nations is deadlocked and needs a political push at the highest level for a breakthrough. This could occur at the anticipated North-South Summit in Mexico in June and at the scheduled economic summit in Ottawa in July. Did the government secure a commitment from the American government, during the visit of the past few days, that President Reagan will attend the Mexico North-South Summit and that it agrees that the North-South issue will be foremost on the agenda in Ottawa?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, we did not seek commitments as such. We certainly raised all aspects of the North-South question with the United States. The American reaction, especially on participating in the Mexico Summit, tends to be rather positive at this stage.

Mr. Clark: Tends to.

Mr. MacGuigan: It would not be appropriate for us to negotiate that with them. Their official will be in Mexico City tomorrow to carry on discussions with the Mexicans on that point. I suspect they will be giving this matter full consideration in the very near future.

Mr. Roche: Madam Speaker, the minister did not make any mention of the importance of this issue in the economic summit which will be held in Ottawa.

WORLD BANK ENERGY PROPOSAL

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton South): In order to maintain our credentials in the advancement of the North-South issue, it is imperative that the Canadian government establish a new policy. Since energy is a critical issue for developing countries, is Canada prepared to back the new energy affiliate proposed by the World Bank? Is consideration being given to locating the energy affiliate of the World Bank in Canada, particularly in the province of Alberta?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, we are one of the strongest supporters of the new energy affiliate, so I can assure the hon. member that we are doing everything we can in international discussions to advance the idea. Of course we would like nothing better than to provide Canada as a home for that institution if it gets off the ground. It is somewhat premature at the moment, when there is not widespread commitment to it, to discuss where it will be or what form it will take.

Oral Questions
PIPELINES

ALASKA GAS PIPELINE—UNITED STATES FINANCING

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It follows an answer he gave to the hon. member for Oshawa. I should like to read one line from President Carter's approval of the Alaska pipeline in 1977. He wrote:

The aforesaid producers of Alaska gas may not be equity members of the sponsoring consortium, have any voting power in the project, have any role in the management or operations of the project, have any continuing financial obligation in relation to debt guarantees associated with the project.

Unless this directive is changed, there cannot be any private financing. Would the minister indicate to the House whether he asked President Reagan if he is prepared to change this provision and, if so, when will it happen?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, we did not discuss any documents of that kind with the President of the United States. Indeed, the hon. member, who was well taught in law school several years ago, is as capable of interpreting that document as anyone else.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacGuigan: The discussion in this area was of a more general nature, but we were very heartened by the assurances we received.

Mr. Waddell: Madam Speaker, I was not well taught; the minister was my professor.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lawrence: The blind leading the blind.

Mr. Nielsen: That explains a lot.

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NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

QUERY RESPECTING UNITED STATES REACTION

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to another professor, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. On Friday the United States government withdrew a memorandum protesting our energy policies. In his speech this morning, the President eliminated a section of his text dealing with energy. In light of those two puzzling moves, would the minister of energy tell us whether President Reagan or any of his officials expressed reservations about Canadian energy policies and if so, would he tell us what were those reservations?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I noted no expression of reservation at the meetings I attended. Nonetheless, we agreed that in