

large, organized bodies like big companies, but in fact left individual fishermen high and dry. That is what we are trying to restore. We are trying to repair the damage of that policy.

**Mr. Gass:** By way of a supplementary, Madam Speaker, could the minister confirm to the House that major changes to the program are not being planned by his department for future years, changes which will see the subsidy drop from its present 35 per cent to something substantially lower?

**Mr. LeBlanc:** Madam Speaker, we have had constant discussions with provincial governments. Some have programs where there is zero per cent interest on their loans, others have commercial interest rates, and others have 8 per cent. We are trying to co-ordinate these programs.

We have also looked at the possibility that a lower percentage of the subsidy might, in fact, achieve the same aim. No decision has been made. I am trying to restore the program to at least an adequate level of funding, which is what the previous government did not do.

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#### NORTHERN PIPELINES

##### ALASKA GAS PIPELINE—FINANCIAL GUARANTEES BEFORE CONSTRUCTION

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Madam Speaker, I should like to return to the Prime Minister and the line of questioning begun by the hon. member for Oshawa. I might say that we find it very difficult to hear, from the man who wants to entrench a bill of rights in the constitution, the notion that an act of Parliament can be fundamentally changed by order in council.

**Mr. Trudeau:** That is what the law says.

**Mr. Waddell:** My question is this: without agreeing for a moment that the government has the authority to change the act—putting that aside—is the Prime Minister telling this House that one of the options he is considering is changing the Northern Pipeline Act so that he can go ahead with the pipeline without the ironclad guarantees, or going to an option which the Americans have called a damn fool option?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I find that the preamble indicates the hon. member certainly has a lesser understanding of the act than his leader does.

**An hon. Member:** That is not hard.

● (1440)

**Mr. Trudeau:** We are not arbitrarily changing the act against the will of Parliament. Section 20, subparagraph 4, of the act states that the terms and conditions can be amended by the National Energy Board with the approval of the governor in council. That is what Parliament said could be done. We are not trying to shirk our responsibilities.

#### Oral Questions

**Mr. Waddell:** Madam Speaker, Canadian people know very well that the Prime Minister is trying to skate around this matter and sell them a bill of goods.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** You don't understand.

**Mr. Waddell:** The Prime Minister said that he would do his homework on this issue. Last Monday I asked him about the backstop agreement with TransCanada PipeLines. I suggested to him that by that agreement they are obligated to guarantee the shipment of gas out of Alberta to the United States for 15 years—some 4.5 trillion cubic feet of gas. That is much more than the amount which is needed for the pre-build section.

Has the Prime Minister had a chance to look at the matter, and is he prepared to consider it? Does he not recognize a big sell-out of Canadian gas when it hits him in the face?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, this matter was examined by the National Energy Board and no export will be authorized by the government unless, first of all, the Energy Board is convinced that all the conditions concerning future security of supply for Canadians are guaranteed.

Secondly, the government itself must be convinced that the Energy Board is right. This is the situation under the law as it stands at the present time, and it is what we intend to follow in the future.

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#### VETERINARY COLLEGES

##### SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED COLLEGE IN ATLANTIC REGION

**Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Given that each year Canada must import a number of veterinarians because the three existing Canadian veterinary colleges are unable to accept anything more than a very small proportion of the applications from qualified Canadians, is the government committed to supporting the proposed Atlantic regional veterinary college; and if so, what is the share of the cost which it is prepared to meet?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I am sorry, but I am not on top of the problem of veterinary colleges. There may be an acting minister or a parliamentary secretary who can fill me in on this matter.

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#### INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE

##### PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL SALE OF SEED POTATOES

**Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte):** Madam Speaker, the potato industry of the maritime provinces grows the best seed potatoes in the world from the cleanest soil in the world.