

Oral Questions

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, Premier Lougheed made a statement last Wednesday, and I quote from Alberta *Hansard* as follows:

We have, I think, received some draft or preliminary information, but not the studies. It probably will be during the course of the next week or the week after before they are finalized.

Premier Lougheed also made a statement in the legislature on Friday to the effect that three or four studies were in the hands of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources on Sunday night or Monday morning.

In view of those statements I should like to ask the minister whether this gave him and his officials adequate time in which to make an accurate analysis and appraisal of the projected cost of the Syncrude project?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I think it is fair to say that we would have liked more time, but it was adequate to confirm the conclusions we had arrived at.

SYNCRUDE PROJECT—REASON FOR HASTE IN CONCLUDING AGREEMENT IN VIEW OF TIME AVAILABLE TO STUDY COST DATA

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the minister only had the draft reports and not the final studies, which he had received Sunday night or Monday morning, and in view of the fact that the most important study by Loram International, which dealt with the projected costs, states on page 2 that "it is not possible to completely reconcile the two estimates", referring to the projected July cost of \$960 million compared with the later estimate of \$2,048 million, I should like to ask the minister what was the rush to conclude the agreement last Monday since the minister did not have anything beyond these preliminary reports for making an accurate appraisal? Since the minister only had the preliminary studies a few hours before commencing negotiations, and since this report said it was not possible to completely reconcile this 100 per cent increase in the projected cost, what was the rush?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the rush, of course, related to the importance of saving the project. The underlying concern we had in this regard was in respect of action taken at that time in which the other levels of government agreed. It was important that we should continue in Syncrude, and it was for that reason we arrived at the agreement to do so. In respect of whether the studies were drafts, I would have to take a look again at the exact terms in which they were stated, but my recollection is that they were in relatively definitive form.

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[Translation]

AIRPORTS

MIRABEL—ALLEGED ILLEGAL USE OF MANPOWER AND EQUIPMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale)]

In view of revelations made before the Cliche Commission that two companies carrying out contracts at the Mirabel site illegally used free manpower from heavy machinery operators courses, as well as equipment rented by the training center for those courses, and since the courses are financed by the federal government, could the minister tell the House whether his department is making an investigation in that matter and whether steps will be taken to get the money back if necessary?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it would be proper to add our inquiry to that of the Cliche Commission. We shall let the commission complete its inquiry and when we know its findings, we shall see whether it is advisable to make our own investigation to find out whether our interests have been endangered and what are the means of correcting the situation.

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[English]

ENERGY

OIL—AMOUNT OF PRODUCTION NECESSARY FROM TAR SANDS TO ENSURE SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources relates to the process of his calculation in respect of the requirements for production of energy or petroleum in this country to ensure self-sufficiency by 1985. Will the minister indicate how much of the production he anticipates will have to come from the tar sands in order to ensure this self-sufficiency? In other words, how many plants the size of Syncrude will be required to be in operation by that time?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): The hon. gentleman might have a look at the report of the National Energy Board in this context.

Mr. Stanfield: How about you?

TAR SANDS—METHOD OF DEVELOPMENT—GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): In view of the fact that presently there appears to be some reluctance in today's economic conditions on the part of private enterprise to proceed on its own, could the minister indicate what he anticipates would be the method of development over the next decade, whether there would be a continuation of government involvement or a change in the economic atmosphere which would enable private enterprise to go ahead with this development?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): We would not anticipate at this point being involved to the extent that we are in the Syncrude property.