Northern Oil Pipeline Route

gency debate. The situation has not changed and I am still hopeful that a debate in one form or another can take place very soon. Perhaps the Chair might be allowed to leave the door open for the possible consideration later of a similar motion under Standing Order 26. For the moment, however, and particularly in view of the decision which was given yesterday, I would hesitate very much to agree that a debate take place at this time under the terms of Standing Order 26.

ENERGY

UNITED STATES PREFERENCE FOR ALASKA RATHER THAN MACKENZIE VALLEY OIL PIPELINE ROUTE

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I rise under Standing Order 26 to move a motion for the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the statement made by the President of the United States today that he prefers the Alaska route to the Canadian route for an oil pipeline from Prudhoe Bay, and because of a statement made yesterday by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources that the Canadian government does not plan any further representations to the American government on this matter.

Mr. Speaker: The notice required by the Standing Order was given to the Chair by the hon. member for Vancouver South just a brief moment before the opening of the House at two o'clock. The notice given was proper and in order as provided by the Standing Order, in view of the special circumstances alluded to by the hon. member for Vancouver South. However, the fact that notice was given just before the opening of this afternoon's session makes it very difficult for the Chair to reach a decision and make a ruling on whether a debate should be had on this very important and urgent matter. At this time I wish to take advantage of the provision of the Standing Order to delay the decision on the motion and later this afternoon give a ruling on the hon. member's proposed motion.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. If Your Honour finds some difficulty with regard to the notice, I wonder whether you would consider asking for the unanimous consent of the House to waive the usual notice.

• (1440)

Mr. Speaker: I have just said that the hon. member was within the ambit of the rules. There is no question at all about that. The rule is clear. If the motion relates to a matter which comes up at the last moment it is sufficient for notice to be given just before the opening of the House. The hon. member for Vancouver South will admit, I am sure, that he was pretty close to the line, somewhere between the first prayer and the second prayer I believe.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Speaker: That is why I suggest that his prayer should be kept in abeyance and considered later this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REVIEW OF POLICIES FOR ATLANTIC REGION— EMPLOYMENT AND CAPITAL TARGETS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I had intended to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion but in his absence—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacKay: I apologize for interrupting the hon. minister but I would like to ask him a question or two if I may. In light of the fact that unemployment in the entire Atlantic region today has risen by 20 per cent since DREE was first instituted, is the minister preparing an over-all review of the economic policies of his department bearing in mind that other economic indices are also worsening? If so, will he be making it public in the near future?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): The short answer is yes, Mr. Speaker. I think that during the discussion that will take place when my estimates are before the committee we shall be in a better position to reveal our proposals in detail. However, I can say to the House that the record in terms of our experience of industrial incentives is such as to indicate a necessity to go out and try to induce entrepreneurs to come into the area instead of waiting and simply responding to their initiatives.

Mr. MacKay: I should now like to direct a supplementary to the Prime Minister. In light of the apparent continuing isolation of regional development priorities from the over-all economic policy of the Department of Finance, has the government formulated employment and capital targets for the Atlantic region that will discipline and co-ordinate the over-all economic policies of the government? When will such targets be made available to the public who are very concerned, particularly in the whole Atlantic region where we are not in very good shape economically?

An hon. Member: That is the repercussion of heavy water.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): When the government discusses budgetary matters and the subject of regional economic expansion it does take those factors into account.