

## ENERGY

### DEVELOPMENT OF OIL SHALES IN NEW BRUNSWICK

**Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal):** I direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Knowing full well that just a few weeks ago, in Charlottetown, the Prime Minister stated that, now that the Alsands project is dead, the government will be diverting funds to other areas of the economy to help make regions self-sufficient, will he recognize the viability and potential of the oil shales in the Moncton Basin in New Brunswick, which would amount to 10 billion to 20 billion barrels of oil, and be as generous with New Brunswick as he was with the province of Saskatchewan in setting up a pilot project to explore the possibilities of getting at that oil?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, these projects are being given careful consideration by my department on the basis of their respective economic viability, and in so far as projects such as the one mentioned by the hon. member can be expected to provide appreciable economic energy benefits in comparison with other projects, we shall obviously be examining them with great interest.

\* \* \*

[English]

## COMMUNICATIONS

### USE OF CANADIAN SPACE SATELLITES

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Communications who, I understand, is leaving shortly to go to Calgary to meet with his provincial counterparts on the issue of communications policy and Pay TV. I also understand that his officials have recently been meeting in Washington with members of the Federal Communications Commission with respect to changes to the 1972 letters of understanding between the two countries, which limit Canadian access to American satellites. Could the minister tell the House the nature of the amendments he is proposing? Specifically, is he proposing to allow the Americans to use our made-in-Canada satellites for direct-to-home broadcasting and rebroadcasting, an activity which is illegal in Canada? We have invented and paid for the technology, but we are not allowed to use it. Is it true that the minister will allow the Americans to use it first?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member is quite right in saying that there was, indeed, a very high level meeting of Canadian and U.S. officials last week in Washington. They agreed to set up a joint working group at a very senior level to look at the whole question of transport of data flow, transport or use of satellites, and the whole issue of orbital separations for satellites. These discussions of last Thursday will be followed by further discussions over the next few months. I think it actually points

## Oral Questions

out or highlights the fact that when one looks at the over-all range of communications issues between Canada and the United States, our relations are indeed going ahead and progressing on an even keel.

Concerning the possible use of Canadian satellites by the U.S., it is my position, and the position of the government, that as long as those satellites are not required for use by Canadians we should be in a position to export, so to speak, the use of Canadian satellite channels to the United States, thereby allowing Telesat Canada to increase revenue and, in the long range, make the use of satellites in this country cheaper.

### TRANSMISSION OF SIGNALS FROM FLORIDA

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Madam Speaker, I would like to direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Communications. I would point out that the revenues which are being talked about barely cover the launch costs for the next five satellites. I would also like to point out to the minister that Telesat is so embarrassed by the amount of American capacity on Canadian satellites that it is selling, that it has renumbered the satellites backwards. Therefore, we will launch Anik C-3 first, then Anik C-2, then Anik C-1.

● (1450)

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

**An hon. Member:** It is an explanation. The minister should know that.

**Miss Carney:** I would like to point out to the minister that it was designed originally for Canadians, specifically northern Canadians. Can he explain why the system is being designed to pick up Florida?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications):** Madam Speaker, obviously once again if we do have excess capacity, and that is the view of Telesat and its board of directors, the strong recommendation to the government from Telesat is that we should, in this interim period when we have an excess capacity, rent this excess capacity to the Americans because there is no demand for that type of commercial service in Canada at this stage. When there is indeed a commercial demand in Canada, we will make those satellite channels available. I have great difficulty understanding the hon. member's position. On this side of the House we are indeed interested in exporting high technology products to the Americans. The use of the satellite channel is an example of exporting some high technology products.

\* \* \*

## MINES AND MINING

### LAY-OFFS IN LABRADOR AND NORTHERN QUEBEC

**Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Mines. It is in relation to a telegram sent by the mayor and