

Oral Questions

mittee to Dr. Kissinger that they will definitely be violating the 1909 treaty, will the minister now ask them to call a complete moratorium until the whole matter is cleaned up. Even if the water is diverted back into the United States it will still pollute Manitoba waters. This project must be stopped.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we are still confident that the United States will honour its long-standing pledge that no construction will be undertaken that will have the effect the hon. member describes unless the United States is in a position to meet all its obligations under the treaty. The matter was raised, as my hon. friend knows, last December at the meeting of the President and the Prime Minister and that assurance was repeated at that time. So I am confident that pledge will be carried out.

Mr. McKenzie: Mr. Speaker, the problem is that there are certain aspects of this project that are nearing completion. We have almost reached the point of no return. If the project continues there is no way we can stop the pollution of Manitoba waters.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for South Shore.

* * *

FISHERIES**REASON FOR DELAY IN EXTENDING JURISDICTION TO EDGE OF CONTINENTAL SHELF**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of State (Fisheries). Now that the minister has had since May 30 to think about a definition of "sovereign territory", could he tell the House why the Canadian government has not begun asserting its control over the mineral and marine resources of the seabed of the continental shelf, since according to the Prime Minister on May 16, international law gives us sovereign rights over the seabed out to the edge of the continental shelf.

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, although I said I was not a lawyer I did, however, speak to some lawyers and was told that the 1958 convention covered the shelf, that is the bottom and not the water above it, and for that reason I cannot claim that jurisdiction.

Mr. Crouse: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Will the Canadian people have to wait for the resumption of the Law of the Sea Conference sometime in the future before the Canadian government does anything to protect the interests of the people in Atlantic Canada and to protect its interest off the coasts of Canada?

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs has made clear that the assessment is going on and action of different types is under consideration.

[Mr. McKenzie.]

ENERGY**MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—SUGGESTED EXPEDITION OF BERGER COMMISSION REPORT—PLANS FOR NEGOTIATION OF LAND RIGHTS**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. As it is predicted by the premier of Alberta that in the next two years there could be a very serious shortage of natural gas for industrial use in Ontario, has the minister asked that the Berger report be expedited so that some conclusion can be made immediately in reference to the pipeline from the Mackenzie Delta.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman will recall that we have said Mr. Justice Berger should have the full time available to conduct this hearing and on that basis we have not put forward the suggestion made by the hon. member.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that there is some urgency, I should like to ask whether the minister, either through his own department or with another department, has, with liaison, worked out any plans for negotiations with reference to land rights if and when that pipeline will be built so that there will not be a further delay and so that the industrial centres of Ontario will not suffer in that regard?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, land rights is one of the questions on which Mr. Justice Berger is currently conducting hearings. It seems to us more sensible to wait until he concludes this and submits his recommendations.

NATURAL GAS—GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO EXPORT AND DOMESTIC MARKETS IF SHORTAGE OCCURS

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In the event of a shortage of natural gas developing has the government decided to curtail exports or will shortages be shared on a pro rata basis for both export and domestic markets?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the availability of natural gas in Canada has been the subject of a report which is expected imminently from the National Energy Board and the impact of that report will of course be discussed fully with the customers before there is a government decision.

POLAR GAS PIPELINE TO TORONTO AND MONTREAL—DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCES ON ROUTE

Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources further with reference to a possible gas shortage in the future whether there has been any further discussion on the Polar Gas Pipeline from the north to the Montreal and Toronto market and whether that pipeline might be built on the east side or on the west side of Hudson's Bay and whether any consultation has taken