

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, negotiations have not yet begun on this matter, so it would be premature to discuss it.

We say in the guidelines, that it should be a common carrier, as the hon. member said, and we shall be discussing this in the future. We do not have a definitive policy on this matter; however, there will be no pipeline if development of Canadian resources is not allowed.

[English]

PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—ECOLOGICAL STUDIES—PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has the government invited the Science Council to participate in the ecological studies and will the minister make known the results of these studies before taking a formal stand on this pipeline?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as early as 1969 an interdepartmental task force was formed and one of the subcommittees under that task force was set up specifically to study ecological questions which they have been doing very comprehensively, as have various government departments, agencies and the private sector itself. Whether or not these studies should be made public at this time or at the time an application to construct a pipeline is made is something we will have to take under advisement.

Mr. Comeau: Since the minister is meeting with these people on Monday, will he be taking a formal stand with the industries or people concerned, and will he have the reports on the ecological studies before making a decision on the pipeline proposals?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, of course the two decision-making bodies on the question of the safety of the ecology are the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development which has the primary responsibility, and the National Energy Board which has an equal responsibility in approving or disapproving a pipeline application. Whether or not it is in the public interest to make the various studies public before such an application is made is something we will consider.

DELAYING OF CONSTRUCTION START ON TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE PENDING FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON MACKENZIE VALLEY ROUTE

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. Can either of the ministers responsible advise whether they now have a definite assurance from the United States that the Prudhoe Bay to Valdez pipeline will not be undertaken until negotiations have been continued and furthered in relation to the Mackenzie Valley route?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any such assurance. This is an internal matter for the United States of America. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has made Canadian concerns known in regard to marine shipping off the British Columbia coast. I think all authorities in Washington are aware that we should like consideration to be given to the Mackenzie Valley route, subject to Canadian rules and Canadian decisions, before the Valdez decision is made, but certainly we cannot bind the United States government to await that decision.

PROPOSED TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM—REPORTED POTENTIAL LOSS TO BRITISH COLUMBIA FISHING INDUSTRY

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In connection with the meetings he is to have with American oil interests and prior to the conclusion of those negotiations, would he seek from his colleague, the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, for his information and for the information of the House an assessment of the report emanating from the United States Department of Commerce that an oil tanker route off the west coast of Canada would result in a loss of \$100 million per year to the west coast fishing industry?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, as my colleague has said, this is team work and we are in constant contact with the Department of Fisheries and Forestry which supplies us with certain technical data concerning fishing in the Mackenzie River as well as in the Pacific Ocean.

I believe that Department is now studying the report of the U.S. Department of Commerce on how the establishment of a maritime route between Valdez and the United States might affect fisheries in the future.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg North on a supplementary question and then we will move to another subject.

PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—SUBMISSION OF ECOLOGICAL GUIDELINES TO COMPANY PRESIDENTS

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. When the minister and his colleague meet the representatives of the oil companies on Monday to discuss the possibility of an oil pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley, would they take with them whatever guidelines, preliminary or advanced, that the officials working on guidelines to protect the environment have prepared so that the companies will know that if they are interested in building a pipeline