

SHIPPING

MOVEMENT OF ALBERTA OIL BY TANKER FROM
VANCOUVER—PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO DEAL WITH
POSSIBLE SPILLS

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of increased oil tanker traffic from Vancouver destined for the east coast, can the minister advise the House whether there has been any addition to personnel and equipment in order to deal effectively with any oil spill that may take place on the west coast?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether there has been any increase in personnel. I know that all oil spills have been handled quite rapidly, but I will get the information required by the hon. member.

Mr. Fraser: In view of the fact that the existing number of men and the equipment available were unable effectively to contain a minor oil spill several months ago in Vancouver harbour, can the minister assure the House that oil spill prevention and containment measures on the west coast will be substantially improved immediately?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the first part of the question but perhaps we can find another opportunity to discuss this. I think we have all the men and equipment necessary to handle oil spills.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are running short of time. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Vancouver South on a supplementary and then the hon. member for St. Catharines, followed by the hon. member for Algoma.

● (1500)

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that on December 11 Mr. Allard, public relations officer for the Ministry of Transport, said the only equipment available on the west coast is that which was available at the time of the *Erawan-Sun Diamond* spill in the fall, which was ineffective, I ask the minister in all seriousness whether he will consider this matter and come back to the House in a few days and assure us that something will be done in order that we will be capable of dealing with a major oil spill which might easily occur in view of the increased traffic.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I will look into the matter, and if there are any shortcomings they will be corrected right away.

STANDARDS RESPECTING TANKERS MOVING ALBERTA OIL
FROM VANCOUVER TO EAST COAST

Mr. Trevor Morgan (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Having regard to the requirements respecting transportation of oil by tanker down the B.C. coast, and the fact that Canada is now shipping oil from Vancouver to Portland, Maine, what standards are we requiring for oil tankers going down the U.S. coast, through the Panama Canal and up

Oral Questions

the east coast, particularly in view of the fact that Cape Hatteras is such a dangerous point? Are we requiring the same standards in respect of vessels using the U.S. coastline as we demanded in respect of the B.C. coastline?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, we have to transport oil to Portland. As yet, no tanker from Vancouver has gone up the St. Lawrence. When those tankers have to face such dangerous conditions as ice, we will doubtless have to reach decisions in each case individually because at the present time there is no fleet of tankers available for transporting oil.

[English]

Mr. Morgan: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Transport failed to listen to my question. The Canadian government has made certain representations to the United States government as to the safety standards it will require in respect of oil tankers going from Alaska to Cherry Point. I ask the minister whether we are requiring the same safety standards in respect of oil tankers going from Vancouver down the U.S. coast, through the Panama Canal and up the east coast of the United States to Portland, Maine, particularly in view of the fact that Cape Hatteras is one of the world's most dangerous points of navigation. Do we require the same standards—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I assume the minister has heard the question.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I listened to the question. We require exactly the same standards for all ships sailing under the same conditions.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: What does that mean?

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ENERGY

INQUIRY WHETHER NUCLEAR REACTORS SOLD OVERSEAS
WILL BE FUELED BY CANADIAN URANIUM

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who was chosen by the *Globe and Mail* as man of the year for 1973.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Foster: It is obvious that all hon. members want to congratulate the minister and also the *Globe and Mail* on its choice.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Foster: Do the recent sales of Candu reactors to Argentina and South Korea include an understanding that Canadian uranium will be provided to fuel these reactors?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for his kind reference. In connection with the sale to