

Oral Questions

extended to other airports such as Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg, under federal jurisdiction? Will it be extended to other free enterprise operators within Canadian federal institutions?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, there is in Canada an Official Languages Act.

[English]

There is an Official Languages Act in Canada—

[Translation]

—and in my department, as in other departments, we are trying to implement this legislation as it applies to aviation, and that includes the particular case we have here of concession operators in airports. We are trying to do this as realistically and as responsibly as possible, and that is why, as far as airport concessions are concerned, we have established three categories: (a), (b) and (c), according to the demand for use of the other official language. We are applying the legislation by diplomatic and responsible means, through agreements signed with the concession operators. The agreements contain requirements the concession operators must meet.

Therefore, when these measures are implemented, we are, in fact, applying the terms of the contract. There are problems, and we are trying to solve these, but in most cases we have been remarkably successful by using persuasion instead of simply enforcing the regulations.

[English]

Mr. Stewart: Madam Speaker, the Liberal Party is the party that champions human rights, but obviously not language rights. I would like to ask the minister if he considers that that will happen with the CNR, too.

EFFECT ON UNILINGUAL ENGLISH-SPEAKING CITIZENS

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the minister one further question. Is this not a divisive policy, in view of Quebec's bill 101 which denies language rights for Canadians? By 1984 or 1985, will it mean the young people of nine out of ten provinces will be precluded from jobs because they are not bilingual—as an example, in these buildings?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I feel you will find many examples. Not too long ago I had the occasion to serve on a commission that gave me that opportunity. The hon. member will find that in many parts— all parts of Canada—

Mr. Clark: What happened to its recommendations?

Mr. Pepin: —there are a great number of people who are certainly fundamentally devoted to the implementation of bilingualism in this country.

An hon. Member: Like Jack Horner.

Mr. Pepin: We think that what we are doing in the Department of Transport is right, given that objective which is shared by the people of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

DEVELOPMENT OF HEAVY-OIL UPGRADER IN SASKATCHEWAN

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The minister is no doubt aware that a consortium in Saskatchewan, which includes Saskoil and Petro-Canada, is proposing to build a heavy-oil upgrader near Moose Jaw. In light of all the announced tax changes last night, such as earned depletion and others, I wonder if the minister could tell us whether any of these tax changes can be applied against the development of a heavy-oil upgrader in the province of Saskatchewan.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, in the National Energy Program published in 1980 we provided some funds to support the development of upgraders in Montreal and Saskatchewan. Those funds are still part of the energy envelope and are still available. In addition, the changes we announced last night will mean that there will be more money in the hands of the corporations. This will improve that cash flow of corporations. This way they will be in a better position to proceed with that particular project.

Finally, I understand that the new government of Saskatchewan, which I am also wishing well, is considering substantial changes to the royalty level in Saskatchewan. I remind my hon. friend that the royalty level in Saskatchewan is the highest in Canada. As a matter of fact it is one of the highest in the world.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lalonde: I think it is high time that the royalty level be changed if we want to see progress and action in the oil and gas field in Saskatchewan.

PARTICIPATION BY GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Madam Speaker, in other words there is nothing in the tax changes which could be applied toward the building of the heavy-oil upgrader itself in the province of Saskatchewan. It is like building a road to the river but building no bridge to cross the river. In light of that I would like to ask the minister whether or not he has had a chance to speak to the new minister of energy in Saskatchewan. Has the minister received a commitment from the minister of energy in Saskatchewan that Saskoil must still put up 25 per cent of the cost of the heavy-oil upgrader? While he is on his feet, can the minister make a commitment to increase