

ENERGY

OIL PIPELINE EXTENSION TO MONTREAL—INQUIRY AS TO APPROVAL BY BOARD AND LETTING OF CONTRACT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources whether the National Energy Board has approved the Montreal pipeline and whether the contract at this time is now let in light of the fact that there now seems to be an easing of the pressure with regard to security of supply of crude petroleum and other energy?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the board has not yet given approval for the pipeline.

Mr. Woolliams: Is the application before the board and has the government ensured that the pipeline will be built so that we will have a security of supply and not have the panic we had this winter?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I spoke to the chairman about this matter this morning. He is anticipating an application at a very early date.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

INQUIRY AS TO DECISION ON REPLACEMENT OF CENTURION TANK

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Can he tell the House whether a decision has been taken not to replace the Centurion tank?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, no decision has been taken. The service life of the Centurion tank has been extended to 1976.

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[Translation]

FISHERIES

QUEBEC—DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL FISHING IN GASPÉ AND MAGDALEN ISLANDS

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Fisheries.

Can the minister tell the House whether he has received a letter from the Quebec Minister of Industry and Commerce informing him that the development of commercial fishing is compromised in the Gaspé peninsula and the Magdalen Islands as a result of cuts in the 1974-75 budget for building fishing harbours?

[English]

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I have received such a letter. The budget has in fact been increased. I should like to remind the hon. member that fishing in Quebec is delegated to the province.

Oral Questions

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. Cyr: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Gaspé wish to ask a supplementary?

Mr. Cyr: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Maybe the minister did not understand my question. He says that the fishing industry comes under the jurisdiction of Quebec, which is true, but building harbours for small boats comes under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

I therefore ask the minister whether he intends sending an encouraging reply to the province of Quebec and the fishermen saying that the commitments contained in the Canada-Quebec agreement will be met by the federal government?

[English]

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the Canada-Quebec agreement is a matter for DREE.

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FLOODS

STEPS TO LOWER WATER LEVEL OF LAKES ONTARIO AND ERIE TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DAMAGE

Mr. Kenneth J. Higson (Lincoln): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. With the water level of Lakes Ontario and Erie continuing at a dangerously high level, with a resulting threat to lake-shore property owners, is the minister satisfied that the International Joint Commission and other appropriate authorities are taking all necessary and possible steps to lower the water level of Lakes Ontario and Erie so as to reduce potential property damage and threat to human life to an absolute minimum?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope so. Our staff is working full time with the IJC in this connection.

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FINANCE

RESULT OF COURT ACTION AGAINST PERSON DISCOUNTING GOVERNMENT CHEQUES—POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF SMALL LOANS ACT

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Justice and relates to what has been referred to in the House as loan sharking operations, technically discounting of government cheques. About 18 months ago the government of Canada took one of these operators to court. Can the minister inform the House what has been the disposition of that case?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is referring to the case recently decided by the Alberta Court of Appeal in which this particular kind of operation was held not to be a loan within the