

Oral Questions

the \$25,000 loan ceiling be raised so that small businesses may benefit more from this law?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I shall be pleased to refer this question to the hon. Minister of Finance who will certainly report to the hon. member as soon as it is possibly feasible.

* * *

[English]

ENERGY

OIL PIPELINE EXTENSION TO MONTREAL—INQUIRY AS TO PLACING OF ORDER FOR STEEL OR PIPE—DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Supply and Services regarding the Montreal pipeline. In fact has there been an order placed in terms of acquiring steel and/or pipe? Has an order been placed yet?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Alexander: Can the minister advise whether the government has determined the size of the pipe that is required and, further, can he advise when the government intends to see that the pipeline is started?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: This whole question is still under review, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Alexander: In light of the speculation in the city of Hamilton involving the Steel Company of Canada, can the minister advise whether he has been in touch with the Steel Company of Canada with respect to the size of the pipeline, the time of commencement of construction, and the ordering of steel and/or pipe, or whether in fact the obligation with respect to the supplying of steel will be shared by anyone else? Can he answer any of these questions so that we can have something of substance rather than the speculation now existing in the city of Hamilton?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, I know that my department's officers are still at the discussion stage with those of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. No negotiation has yet been started with the companies.

[English]

AMOUNT OF WESTERN CRUDE OIL THAT CAN BE MOVED FROM ONTARIO TO QUEBEC MARKET—EFFECT OF TRANS MOUNTAIN PRODUCTION ON ESTIMATED SHORTFALL

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. On November 28 the minister told the House that it was his estimate that 40,000 to 60,000 barrels per day of western crude oil could move from

[Mr. Latulippe.]

Ontario to the Quebec market. In view of the fact industry people have said in the past week that this is pure fantasy, would the minister say whether it is pure fantasy?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, there is a difference of opinion in this regard between officials of the Department of Transport and my department and of the industry. There is a feeling within government circles that with certain physical changes in the system, plus the kind of direction that could be given by the energy resources allocation board, a higher rate of throughput could be achieved.

● (1440)

Mr. Bawden: Mr. Speaker, if I may use the minister's words, he has said there are some facts upon which reasonable men can differ. Can the minister say whether it is true that the Trans Mountain Pipe Line is now putting through some 50 per cent more volume for eastern markets, the volume having risen from 50,000 barrels a day to 75,000 barrels a day or an amount of 875,000 gallons per day, and will this amount take care of the entire shortfall that he projected some weeks ago?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I would have to check the hon. member's figure on throughput. The figure with regard to shortfall was a prospective one and it could be, as has been indicated today, even greater if there are certain international complications.

* * *

VETERANS AFFAIRS

INCREASES IN WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCES, OLD AGE SECURITY AND GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT—ACTION TO PREVENT OFFSETTING

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I now direct my question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. As there are to be increases in January in old age security and the guaranteed income supplement on the one hand and in the war veterans allowance on the other, are the necessary steps being taken so that veterans who are on both will receive both and not have one set off against the other?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, those necessary steps are being taken.

INCREASES IN WAR DISABILITY PENSIONS AND VETERANS ALLOWANCES—ACTION TO PREVENT OFFSETTING

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister if similar action will be taken with respect to those who are on both the war disability pension under the Pension Act and on the war veterans allowance? Since each of these will be escalated in January, will veterans on both receive both increases?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter which has been