

Oral Questions

the hon. member for Calgary North and then the hon. member for Yukon who have supplementaries on the second subject.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I rise on a question of privilege on behalf not only of parliament but of the people of Canada. The Prime Minister refuses to admit his responsibility and that of his cabinet. He tries to brush it aside by an imaginary suggestion that a legal opinion is involved. The people of Canada look to the government, although I know unsuccessfully, to protect them from this type of inflation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Kootenay West.

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ENERGY

REQUEST FOR THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA PROPOSAL THAT ALASKAN OIL BE TRANSPORTED BY RAIL

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Kootenay West has the floor and he should be given an opportunity to ask his question.

Mr. Harding: My supplementary relates to the Alaska pipe line. I felt the minister indicated that preference would be given to the Mackenzie Valley route. I would like to ask him whether he will assure the House and the government of British Columbia that a very thorough discussion and examination of its proposal of a railway to transport oil from Alaska will be undertaken before any decision is made as to which route, if any, is to be taken?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Yes, Mr. Speaker, but I would only say that if Premier Barrett in fact did any studies before making his Yukon railway proposal, I am certain he will be glad to make these background studies available to the government of Canada. I hope they will be forthcoming shortly.

U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION BARRING ALASKA PIPELINE—SUBMISSION OF CANADIAN POSITION—REQUEST FOR POLICY STATEMENT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, in light of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, has the minister now officially or unofficially put forward Canada's position very clearly so that the U.S. Congressional hearing at least will have that knowledge? Second, since there seems to be some question of where the government stands on this issue, would the minister undertake to make a clear and unequivocal statement on the energy policy of the government, particularly when we are dealing with an energy problem that really is a world crisis?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the second question would require a statement rather longer than I would be allowed to give during the question period. With respect to the first question, I would remind the hon. member that repeatedly during the past year and several months since I have been in this portfolio I have put the position of the government regarding the possibilities of the Mackenzie route before the House and the government of the United States. I am, however, governed by the National Energy Board Act as to the decision that should be taken.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I am well aware that it would take too long today, but I am asking if tomorrow or very soon the minister will make an unequivocal statement on the national energy policy of the government, dealing with this matter of whether we are going to have a supertanker route down the west coast or whether we are going to have a pipeline, because that energy is going to be moved in spite of this government that will not be moved?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to remind the hon. member that the oil resource he is talking about is not here in Canada. It is in Alaska and the Americans are seeking to move it to the southern 48 states. If he pauses to think about it for a moment he will realize that the question of a trans-Alaska pipeline is one of U.S. energy policy and not of the government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Yukon and after his supplementary try to go to another subject.

REQUEST THAT TERRITORIES BE REPRESENTED ON ALL BODIES CONCERNED WITH POSSIBLE NORTHERN PIPELINE

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have only one supplementary. I would like to direct it to the Prime Minister since it involves several departments of government and the question of a pipeline. I ask him to give the people of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories his personal assurance, and that of his government, that in all discussions, on all task forces, and in all consideration given to the matter of a pipeline to be built through the northern portion of this country, the people there will be represented through their elected representatives on the territorial councils?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, whenever it is appropriate we do ensure such representation.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

ALLEGED TUBAL LIGATION OF NATIVE WOMEN WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE OR AGAINST THEIR WILL

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of