

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the committee under the chairmanship of my friend, the Minister of State from Calgary, is as fertile in ideas as is the hon. member.

Mr. Horner: The budget would not appear to be so fertile in ideas.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Horner: What does the government have against the farmer?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

CONCESSIONS TO CORPORATIONS IN BUDGET INTENDED TO CREATE JOBS—MONITORING AGENCY TO CHECK HOW ADDED INCOME IS USED

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I always seem to rise when there is commotion. May I ask the Minister of Finance a question arising out of the tax concessions to corporations which he announced last night and which he said he intended should be used for the creation of jobs. Does the minister intend to set up any kind of monitoring agency in order to watch over the way in which the added income from these concessions is used by companies, to see whether the income will actually be used to create jobs or whether it will merely be an addition to company profits? Is he setting up any machinery to monitor that very important situation?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the confidence I have placed in the manufacturing industries will be borne out to the satisfaction of both the hon. member and myself. We will monitor this together, and I think we are capable of doing it.

Mr. Lewis: In view of what the minister said, would he tell the House whether actual corporate profits, which have risen substantially in the first quarter of this year in some cases, MacMillan Bloedel by 550 per cent, and Imperial Oil by 35 per cent—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has the floor for the purpose of asking a question. It seems to me we are anticipating the budget debate, and many hon. members are seeking an opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that and the list is rather lengthy. May I therefore ask the minister whether he is going to watch particularly these corporations with these large profits since the increase in profits in the case of many of these corporations was accompanied by an actual reduction in the work force and in some cases by the shutting of plants, that being the historical experience—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have just about reached the end of the question period. I suggest to hon. members that questions taking two or three minutes are perhaps a little too long. I suggest that very respectfully. The minister might attempt to reply briefly.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman can make these points, if he wants to

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make them, when he responds to the budget address. I will certainly arrange for a gentleman from our side to reply with the facts.

Mr. Lewis: That is what we want—facts.

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OIL

PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—POSSIBILITY OF EARLIER APPLICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION FROM TRANSMISSION COMPANIES

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the statement by the Prime Minister in Edmonton ten days ago that the cost of the proposed Arctic highway would be recovered through levies upon oil companies operating in the Arctic, is the minister reconsidering his statement to the House of April 25 in such a way that the government would call for submissions or applications from pipeline transmission companies for the construction of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline? I mention this with a certain sense of urgency because there is—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has asked his question.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am advised that the Prime Minister did not say that and I have not changed the policy statement I indicated earlier.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond rising on a supplementary?

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

RECENT APPOINTMENT OF SCOTSMAN TO JOB IN CAPE BRETON—SUGGESTED REPLACEMENT BY CANADIAN

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, it is not actually a supplementary; it is a boot-legged supplementary but it does deal with applications. May I ask the minister if he has had an opportunity to examine the practice followed by AECL in dealing with applications for jobs in Cape Breton?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, yes, I have. I understand that AECL approached two Cape Bretoners with respect to filling the position, but they turned AECL down; other public relations and media people were approached without success; that, because of the urgency involved in filling the position it was decided to go ahead and hire this particular young man who had shown knowledge of the industry and particular ability. So the situation had been canvassed in Cape Breton before he was hired. When these approaches were not accepted it was decided to go ahead with the hiring of this young man.