

vations or problems. The question of capital punishment is certainly that kind of situation and should not be the subject matter for a debate under Standing Order 26.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ENERGY

FAILURE OF ARCTIC GAS PIPELINE TO FILE ALTERNATE ROUTE WITH BERGER COMMISSION—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that the Berger commission chief counsel, Ian Scott, in repeated criticism has stated that Canadian Arctic Gas Pipeline Limited has failed to produce studies and other documents related to alternate routes for the proposed Arctic natural gas pipeline, and when questioned by a reporter outside the inquiry he stated that the delay in supplying the reports could lead to a delay in the hearings being held by the commission, does the government itself or through the National Energy Board have any plans to communicate with Canadian Arctic Gas Pipeline Limited stating the necessity that they present all the documents the commission requires so that the commission can proceed in an orderly fashion?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I will have to consider the hon. member's suggestion. The government's view is that the Berger commission should continue its activities without interference or interruption by the government. I will have to consider whether this could be construed as some kind of interference on our part.

MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE DECISION TO CONSTRUCT WILL NOT BE MADE PRIOR TO BERGER COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Surely intervention by the government or the National Energy Board to make certain that the commission can fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it cannot be interpreted in any way as interfering with the logical operation of the commission. I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the government now say with absolute certainty that the pipeline will not proceed or a decision will not be made regarding the pipeline before a report is made by the Berger commission?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I can say with absolute certainty that no decision can be made before a report is made by the National Energy Board. My understanding is the Berger commission will have finished its report long before the board will have finished its report.

Mr. Gillies: Do I understand the minister to say that the pipeline decision will not be made before the Berger commission report is finished?

Oral Questions

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, as I understand the timetable, and Mr. Justice Berger said this himself, that appears to be a reasonable conclusion.

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NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE BOARD NOT INVOLVED IN PLANNING OF NORTHERN PIPELINES

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In light of earlier statements by the minister that the National Energy Board is an independent tribunal set up to look after the public interest, will the minister assure the House that between the years 1970 and 1975 the National Energy Board was not in any way involved in the planning of northern pipelines?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. lady would read the National Energy Board Act, she would find that not only is it a regulatory tribunal, but it has been given the responsibility by parliament to act in an advisory role to government. I would have to check the record, but according to my recollection, representatives of the National Energy Board, including perhaps the former chairman and the present chairman, were indeed involved in advice to the government which established the northern pipeline guidelines which are now being followed.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am not talking about the government's pipeline guidelines, the establishment of the pipeline guidelines or the board acting in an advisory capacity in this way. I am asking the minister if this independent regulatory body, namely the National Energy Board, was in any way involved in the planning of the pipeline during that period.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): If the hon. lady would do a little more research on this matter, she would find that the board is, of course, reactive to applications in this regard. If she is referring to preparation of general government guidelines such as I have referred to, obviously the board was involved. If she is referring to the preparation of an application by any individual applicant, that, of course, would clearly not be the role of the board. I am confident the board would have acted with great discretion in that regard.

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FOREIGN INVESTMENT

GOVERNMENT VIEW OF ADEQUACY OF PRESENT LEGISLATION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. The Foreign Investment Review Act was passed by parliament as a result of expressed concerns by Canadians with regard to the problem of foreign ownership in general in Canada