

events escalating the war in Viet Nam, was there any discussion between the Prime Minister and the President of the United States of the war in Viet Nam and the possibility of bringing it to a conclusion quickly?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, the President did discuss the position of his government as regards Viet Nam and he did repeat to me what is public knowledge, that he was committed to a policy of a negotiated settlement in Viet Nam with continued withdrawal of United States troops.

Mr. Lewis: As a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Calgary Centre on a supplementary.

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AIR TRANSPORT

RENEGOTIATION OF TREATY WITH UNITED STATES RESPECTING ROUTES—DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT NIXON DURING VISIT

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact that western Canada, particularly Calgary and Edmonton, is badly in need of more air routes, and as the renegotiation of the bilateral air treaty with the United States which was supposed to take place in 1969 has not been concluded, was this question discussed with President Nixon when he was here last week?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): It was not discussed with me. I do know that officials have been discussing this problem, but I do not know whether they discussed it at this recent meeting.

Mr. Harkness: Will the Prime Minister look at this situation personally with a view to securing speedy action in view of the long delay in regard to the matter?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister of Transport has shown the degree to which he is committed to that very policy, but it is a matter, as the hon. member knows, of trying to get as good a bargain as possible for our country in negotiating these routes.

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ENERGY

PROPOSED PIPELINES FROM NORTH—ACCELERATION OF TRADE IN PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS—POLLUTION THREAT—DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT NIXON DURING VISIT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, in light of the Prime Minister's answer to me on Thursday and in light of his answer today to the right hon. member for Prince Albert I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether there were any discussions with the President, or between officials when the President was visiting Ottawa, in reference to pipelines—I will not refer to the two routes because the Prime Minister knows what routes I am talk-

Inquiries of the Ministry

ing about—and in particular was there discussion of any policies to accelerate trade in energy products, namely, crude petroleum and natural gas?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in a very general sense, yes, the problem was raised. I did raise, in front of the President, the important question of energy and the Canadian policy on energy as we would be trying to develop it. The President also raised the pollution aspect of the transportation of oil and told me that he was well aware of the situation, but at our level we did not go into the problem in any great detail. I do know that the Secretary of State for External Affairs at his level was raising this problem with Secretary Rogers.

• (1430)

Mr. Woolliams: May I ask a further supplementary dealing particularly with the matter of pollution. Did the Prime Minister make the Canadian position clear on the question of danger of pollution to the west coast and set out, from the study that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources mentioned on Thursday, that if there is to be a transport route Canada prefers a pipeline down the Mackenzie? Was that position made clear to the Americans at that time?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the danger of pollution was indeed made very clear to the Americans by the government. I might add that, apart from the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources was also present at the meeting with Secretary Rogers when this subject was discussed.

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TRADE

POSSIBLE EXCHANGE OF UNITED STATES GRAINS FOR RUSSIAN OIL AND GAS—DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT NIXON DURING VISIT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I have a further question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, in connection with his talks with President Nixon and arising out of reports from Washington that consideration is being given there to negotiating a deal with Russia whereby the United States would take oil or gas in exchange for U.S. feed or other grains. Can the Prime Minister tell the House whether this subject, which is of great importance to Canada, was discussed by himself and the President or at any level during the visit?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if I might be permitted to reply to that question, I did raise the subject with Secretary Rogers and I was informed that there was no sort of barter deal contemplated and that if oil or gas were to be purchased from the Soviet Union it would be part of the ordinary trade carried on between the two countries.