

*Oral Questions***ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS****PROPOSED REFUSAL OF PASSAGE OF TANKERS TO PROPOSED REFINERY AT EASTPORT, MAINE—RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES**

**Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, I should like, through you, to direct a question to the Minister of the Environment. In view of increased activity in connection with the construction of an oil refinery in Eastport, Maine, and in view of the hazard this presents to the fishing industry not only in the Bay of Fundy but in an extensive part of the Atlantic Ocean adjacent to it, would the minister restate his position, and the position of the government, as set out by his predecessor, Mr. Davis, that under no circumstances will large oil tankers be allowed to pass through Canadian waters to supply any such refinery?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment):** The position stated by my colleagues, the former Secretary of State for External Affairs, the present Secretary of State for External Affairs, my predecessor as Minister of the Environment, and of myself is that Canada is opposed to tanker traffic in that area.

**Mr. McCain:** That is not as clearly stated as was previously stated—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh!

**Mr. McCain:** Has the minister's position been supported by the proper charts showing rock barriers both above and below the water surface of the bay and of the conflicting currents which exist in Head Harbour Passage and adjacent waters and has the government received any response from the United States authorities to the position it has taken?

**Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent):** I know of no more formal objection to a project than a government-to-government note which is what happened in this case. I know of no communication from the United States government on the subject during the past months.

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**CONSUMER AFFAIRS****ALUMINUM WIRING—MEASURES TO PROTECT PUBLIC AGAINST ALLEGED DANGERS**

**Mr. Herb Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. There is an increasing body of evidence about dangers connected with the use of aluminum wiring in homes and commercial buildings. In light of this evidence and resulting public concern will the minister take immediate action to bring aluminum wiring and devices for connecting it under the Hazardous Products Act to set standards for safe use, or take other appropriate steps to protect consumers from the dangers in question?

[Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).]

**Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, officials of the department have consulted very closely with Mr. Jerabec who has been doing some personal research on this project. At this point there is no firm evidence that aluminum wiring with the connectors is hazardous as alleged. In the opinion of officials of the department, aluminum wiring is in itself certainly not hazardous. It is possible, though not proven, that installation of it as electrical wiring in homes might prove to be hazardous but in our view this would not be a matter to be dealt with under the Hazardous Products Act but would rather be a matter for authorities in the provinces and elsewhere who authorize such installations by electrical companies in homes.

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**ENERGY****DISPUTE BETWEEN NEWFOUNDLAND AND QUEBEC OVER ATTEMPTED RECALL OF ELECTRICITY—POSSIBILITY OF MINISTER'S INTERVENTION**

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the importance of developing the lower Gull Island site in Labrador to provide the Atlantic region with hydro, has the minister indicated that he might intercede in the controversy between Newfoundland and Quebec? Would the minister tell us whether he has taken any action to consult with both provinces in an effort to bring about a solution? I refer to the recall of 800 megawatts.

**Mr. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** I think we should distinguish between the question of the Gull Island site and the recall of the 800 megawatts. They are separate questions. The latter issue is one which the governments of Quebec and Newfoundland expect to settle in the courts. As to the great potential of the Gull Island site, I have discussed that subject with the minister of energy in the new Quebec government and with the premier of the hon. member's province.

**GULL ISLAND PROJECT—POSSIBILITY OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHARING INCREASED COST**

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** The minister indicated last year that there were \$243 million on the line for Newfoundland to pick up to develop the Gull Island site. Has any discussion taken place with the Newfoundland government on the subject of increasing costs of such development? Would the minister consider increasing the amount mentioned because of the larger expenditure now involved?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** I talked to the premier of Newfoundland quite recently, within the last few weeks. I put it to him that we would very much like to sit down and discuss with him his most recent engineering and cost estimates for both the trans-