

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

that it is laying off 2,750 workers, what steps will the government take to correct the conditions which led to the lay-offs so that the affected men do not become part of the already swollen ranks of the unemployed in Canada?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I will take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand):** Since Massey-Ferguson Limited has stated that these lay-offs result from slow sales of finished manufactured products, how does the government plan to correct the conditions in the economic climate of Canada which led to this unfortunate situation?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sure the hon. member realizes that his question is of such a general nature that it should not be asked at this time. If the hon. member could put the question in somewhat more specific terms, perhaps it might be in order, but his question cannot be asked at this time. The hon. member is inviting the government to make a statement of general policy, and this should not be done during the question period.

**Mr. Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand):** Very briefly, my question is: What specific steps will the government take to correct this situation in the city of Brantford?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I think this is the right time for me to answer a question which was raised yesterday by the Prince from Hastings.

**Mr. Hees:** On a question of privilege, the minister means Prince Edward-Hastings.

**Mr. Pepin:** Yes. He mentioned the fact that exports of finished products had not increased last year as rapidly as previously. I grant him that so far as last year is concerned, but a good student of statistics—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Hees:** Where are your manners?

**Mr. Speaker:** It seems to me that the minister is replying in effect to a question which was posed yesterday and, not the one posed a moment ago by the hon. member for Norfolk-Haldimand.

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**AGRICULTURE**

FARM MACHINERY—INQUIRY AS TO FINAL REPORT OF BARBER COMMISSION—ACTION ON REPORTS ALREADY SUBMITTED

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can he now indicate when the final report of the Barber Commission will be available? Can he also indicate whether the government has taken policy decisions or any action with respect to the reports already submitted by the Barber Commission?

[Mr. Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand).]

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** I would hope very soon, Mr. Speaker. We received the report some time ago. It is now being translated and printed and, as I said before, I do not think it will be very long. I would not like to repeat what I have said many times in the House about the action we have taken respecting earlier interim reports.

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**ENERGY**

USE OF CANADIAN TERRITORY FOR OIL AND GAS PIPELINES FROM ALASKA TO UNITED STATES—FEASIBILITY STUDIES

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources may I direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development who may be able to answer it. On February 12, in a speech at Vancouver, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources offered the Canadian northland as a land bridge for the transportation of oil and gas from Alaska through Canada to the United States. Has the minister's department made any feasibility studies of the placing of oil and gas pipelines down the Mackenzie River Valley? If so, have such feasibility studies been completed and will they be made available to the general public?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, as everybody knows, studies are presently conducted in the North as to the possibility of constructing oil or gas pipelines on the permafrost. These studies are not completed yet. We believe it will be probably feasible, but we are not in a position to give a definite answer at this time.

[English]

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** May I ask the Prime Minister whether the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources was expressing government policy when he suggested making Canadian territory available for oil and gas pipelines although the feasibility studies and investigation into the ecological consequences of such pipelines have not been completed.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, obviously the two subjects would have to be related. The minister is a member of the same government as the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development so the two decisions would be correlated.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Then do I take it that the offer of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to have the Canadian northland used as a bridge for the transportation of American oil and gas is conditional upon the feasibility studies being favourable?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I do not think we could describe it as an offer in any really legal sense. It was a proposal put forward as one worthy of consideration.