

am, that the application of the credit be strictly on these criteria. I believe it would be quite unjustified to apply a program of this kind on any other criteria.

* * *

PIPELINES

DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES RESPECTING ALASKA HIGHWAY ROUTE

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources I would like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. It is in preparation for the forthcoming discussions with the new administration in the United States, during which the question of pipelines will obviously be of top priority.

In light of information which is now available that the northern tier proposal is not a viable proposition and that the Canadian option would have to be exercised, namely, an Alaska highway route for northern oil, or the Kitimat pipeline, I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government has arrived at a decision at this point as to its preference for a Canadian route, particularly in light of information which has just come out of British Columbia where there are all kinds of renewed interest in the Kitimat proposal, including oil from Prudhoe Bay and the Beaufort Sea using this route.

Mr. Roy MacLaren (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, the factors which the hon. member has mentioned will be taken into account in consideration of this issue and in the preparations for forthcoming discussions with the United States administration.

Mr. Oberle: Madam Speaker, it seems the Prime Minister does not want to answer my question. I am very anxious to know whether there have been any discussions at this point between the government of British Columbia and agencies of the federal government with respect to the preference which should be exercised with respect to an oil pipeline on the west coast and a deep sea oilport.

Mr. MacLaren: Madam Speaker, I am unaware of any recent discussions but I shall inquire and inform the hon. member.

* * *

LABOUR RELATIONS

B.C. TELEPHONE COMPANY—PROFITS MADE DURING STRIKE

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. It concerns the long drawn-out 13-month dispute at B.C. Tel in British Columbia. The very good news yesterday was that Mr. Bill Kelly had been appointed by the minister as special mediator.

Business of the House

I would like to ask the minister if he has considered a recommendation to cabinet that B.C. Tel rates be rolled back along the lines of the 1977 anti-inflation board decision, when the company locked out its employees and made such exorbitant profits that the board ordered that subscribers' fees be returned to the consumers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. I think he will agree with me that my responsibilities as Minister of Labour are to attempt to bring about settlement of the strike. I think the appointment of Bill Kelly is the most constructive thing that I could do in that direction. Mr. Kelly will be flying to British Columbia tonight to meet with the parties immediately.

I am not in a position to know whether the company has benefited financially or lost financially as a consequence of the problems of the last few months. I do not think it is appropriately within my jurisdiction to become involved in any assertion respecting the rates which B.C. Tel should be allowed to charge.

Mr. Rose: Madam Speaker, on a supplementary question, certainly all of us in this House, and in British Columbia too, hope that Mr. Kelly's mission is a success, but I would like to ask, since the subscriber has to have some protection as well, whether the minister is aware that under the National Transportation Act the cabinet has the power, should Mr. Kelly not achieve a satisfactory settlement, to vary a CRTC decision relating to rates.

● (1500)

Mr. Regan: Madam Speaker, any question on that subject should be directed to the minister responsible for the CRTC in the House. As I have already indicated, I believe that such considerations are outside the authority and the responsibility of the Minister of Labour.

* * *

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, after consultations with my counterparts opposite, we have come to an agreement and I now seek unanimous consent for the following House order:

That the first item to be taken up under government orders on Friday, February 13, 1981, shall be Bill C-57, an act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Excise Act and to provide for a revenue tax in respect of petroleum and gas;

That all questions necessary for the disposal of the second reading stage of the said bill shall be put no later than 3.45 p.m. on February 13, 1981;

That any recorded division on the said bill shall be deferred until the conclusion of consideration of government orders on Monday, February 16, 1981;

That after second reading the bill shall not be referred to a Committee of the Whole, but shall be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs; and

That the said committee shall report the bill no later than April 16, 1981.