

*Oral Questions*

the government is waiting on the United States while we might have a very serious oil spill off the western coast of Canada? Do we have to wait on the United States government? Will the Canadian government take action?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I would point out to the hon. member that you cannot have an oil spill from Alaskan oil because there is no pipeline for it to come down through.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We are running short of time. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Edmonton East on a supplementary and then try to recognize a few of the members in the last row.

NATIONAL GAS—POSSIBLE PIPELINE ALONG EASTERN SHORE OF HUDSON BAY

**Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Can the minister tell the House whether there has been a decision to build a gas pipeline along the eastern shore of Hudson Bay within the next three years, as announced by Premier Bourassa in New York recently?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** No, Sir. A consortium has been formed consisting of Panarctic, Tenneco, Trans-Canada Pipelines and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to do a feasibility study on the possibility of constructing a gas pipeline either on the west or on the east side of Hudson Bay. It is a feasibility study only.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PROPOSED CANADA-FRANCE ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF AGREEMENT—SHARING OF COST

**Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Mr. Speaker, I have been trying for several days to remedy a gross oversight in the House relating to the direction in which questions are addressed across the floor. I would like to address my question to a minister who has been shamefully neglected, for reasons which I find quite inexplicable. My question and supplementary, I hope, will be directed to the Minister of State for Science and Technology. Is the minister planning to table the agreement between the Canadian and French governments covering the joint enterprise to build and operate an astronomical observatory in Hawaii?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, of course I have had a look at this project in order to see whether it fits into an over-all research policy on astronomy, but as the hon. member knows, the National Research Council is under the responsibility of my esteemed colleague, the President of the Treasury Board.

[Mr. Woolliams.]

[English]

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Then perhaps my supplementary should be addressed to the President of the Treasury Board. I may not get an answer, but I am going to try. Is the President of the Treasury Board able to inform the House now what general division is proposed or envisaged at the moment on the construction costs, the operation and the time available, as between Canada and France for this proposed observatory?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I take the liberty to suggest to the hon. member, with great respect, that his first question should have been placed on the order paper and the same might apply to his second question. The hon. member is asking for very detailed information which normally, I suggest to him, is sought by way of a written question. Perhaps the hon. member would like to follow that suggestion.

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FOOD PRICES

CONTINGENCY PLAN TO HALT INCREASES—DISCUSSION WITH PROVINCES

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the statement made by the Minister of Agriculture before the Special Committee on Food Prices yesterday, does the government propose to take any action with respect to food prices in Canada? Does the government in fact have a contingency plan for such action and has the government discussed this plan with the provinces?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, in his question the hon. member did not refer to the part of the statement of the Minister of Agriculture he has in mind. If he could clarify this, perhaps I could be more specific in my answer.

**Mr. McGrath:** Perhaps I can clarify it by way of a supplementary question. The Minister of Agriculture indicated yesterday that a contingency plan had not been formulated—that was the thrust of what he said—and that food prices were going up. Based on that, Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is this: does the government have any plan to deal with food prices, and if such a contingency plan does exist has it been discussed with the provinces?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, as the Prime Minister said earlier, we have a contingency plan to deal with the general matter of prices. I have also said earlier that there is no selective way that food prices could be dealt with as a specific item unless under a general plan.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We have reached the end of the question period. The hon. member might quickly ask a supplementary and then I will recognize the hon. member for Nickel Belt or the hon. member for Coast Chilcotin, as the case may be.