

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD*[English]***PIPELINES****ALASKA GAS PIPELINE—UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
COMMITMENT**

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs and it concerns the Alaska Highway natural gas pipeline. The minister will recall, as we all do, that in 1979 the builders of the American portion of the pipeline said that they would need government guarantees, in all probability, to build the U.S. portion. You will also remember, Madam Speaker, that his colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, told Parliament on July 17, 1980, as reported in *Hansard* at page 3061:

What was important to obtain from the American government was that firm commitment that they would see to it that the pipeline would be built. Whether they do it by financial commitment, legislation, or other means, that is for the American government to decide. What is important is that we have that commitment.

Today in this House, President Reagan specifically referred to "completion of the project based on private money". In other words, no government guarantees.

Would the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell the House whether the Government of Canada has the unqualified commitment of the Government of the United States that the pipeline will be built?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition is as capable of interpreting the statements of the