Inquiries of the Ministry

ENERGY

STATEMENT BY DEPUTY MINISTER ON FINDING OF OIL OFF EAST COAST

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources would be in the House today. However, I would like to direct to the acting minister a question relating to the statement of the deputy minister that oil will be found off the east coast within two years. I ask the acting minister whether this means that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has taken charge of the drilling program and is now telling the oil companies where to drill for oil?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I should think it might be obvious to the Leader of the Opposition that this was in the nature of speculation.

Mr. Stanfield: Since the Prime Minister has been modest enough to admit this afternoon that he does not have foresight, I ask the acting minister whether this knowledge was revealed to the minister in a dream or whether he is using an ouija board?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

OIL

REPORTED UNITED STATES OFFER OF CO-OPERATION IN BUILDING PIPELINE ACROSS CANADA FROM ALASKA

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether the United States government has made or repeated an offer to co-operate with this country in building a trans-Canada pipeline from Alaska to the southern 48 states, as reported in the lead story, datelined Washington, in Monday's Toronto *Telegram*?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): If they have, Mr. Speaker, they have not made the offer to me.

Mr. Anderson: I would like to repeat a question I put to the minister two days ago. Has he received any reply to his letter of a week ago today to the United States Secretary of State offering to co-operate with the United States in a study of tanker route problems on the west coast of North America?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker. When the letter was presented to the U.S. State Department they indicated they would like to talk with our officials about a possible place in which to have such consultations and the form consultation would take, but we have not yet received a formal reply.

[Mr. Munro.]

POLLUTION

PROPOSAL BY HOME TOWN CONSTRUCTION LIMITED FOR EXTINGUISHING OF MINE DUMP FIRE

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources but because he is not here I direct it to the acting minister. Has the minister's department received a proposal for extinguishing the minedump fire at Springhill, Nova Scotia, from Home Town Construction Ltd. and, if so, what action is being taken by the department to act on this proposal?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will have to ascertain whether that request has been received and perhaps I can be in touch with the hon. member.

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CANADA PENSION PLAN

PARTICIPATION BY HOUSEWIVES

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is it the intention of the government to recognize the great contribution by housewives to the production of goods and services in Canada, as set forth by the National Council of Women, and to afford them equality of status by allowing them to participate in the Canada Pension Plan?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, many of the observations of the royal commission and the representations made the other day by the group to which the hon. member refers are under consideration in the context of proposals we have for improvement of the Canada Pension Plan. They will be considered in that context.

Mrs. MacInnis: In view of the argument made against such participation by the Minister of Finance on the ground that imputed income is too difficult to calculate, would the government consider hiring fresh economists who are up to this task?

AUTHORITY FOR INTEGRATION WITH OTHER PENSION SCHEMES

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question. A number of questions arise from the question just asked by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway. However, since this matter covers more than one department I put the question to the Prime Minister. If the only authority the government has in respect of Canada Pension Plan funds is to lend money from these funds to the provincial governments, under what authority is the government integrating the Canada Pension Plan with other pension schemes?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question invites the Prime Minister, or another minister on