

complete application for the Alcan route was only received in November, although there was a preliminary application in the early fall. So we were not able to set up something together much sooner. As soon as the application came in, we immediately undertook negotiations with the Yukon government and the Yukon Indians with regard to the type of inquiry which might take place. It is true that the inquiry is limited to a three month period, but it does not have to do all of the things the Berger inquiry had to do. It does not have to deal with the environment or with the conditions which will apply if that route is taken. There are only six communities along that route compared with about 35 along the Mackenzie. Finally, much of the work Mr. Justice Berger has done can be used by the Lysyk panel. So we feel that in that period of time they can deal with economic and social impacts.

The hon. member asked what will happen if the government's decision is to go for the Alcan route. There would have to be more work done by one group or another to determine the conditions which would apply for that route. Mr. Justice Berger dealt with both, and his report on conditions will come out in July.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, it appears that if the Alcan route is ultimately selected, the preferred route for Canadian delta gas will be along the Dempster highway to connect with the Alcan express pipeline to the south. In view of the fact that a social environmental impact study of this route is absolutely essential if an informed decision is to be made, will the minister indicate whether he will now set such an inquiry into gear?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, if in due course a link is proposed or we decide on a link from the Mackenzie Delta to the Alcan pipeline, the proposed pipeline down the Dempster Highway, I suppose we would have to have some kind of inquiry or investigation into the social and economic impacts, but that inquiry does not seem to be necessary now. We do not have to do that right now.

NORTHERN PIPELINE—STATEMENT ON BERGER REPORT BY
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, by way of observation on the last two answers—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): —it seems that we are running into the danger of making a decision before some adequate inquiries have been made, and part of the responsibility for the delay can be laid at the feet of the government.

My supplementary question is to the Acting Prime Minister. It concerns the principle of cabinet solidarity, which is fundamental to our system. With regard to the remarks last night of the Minister without Portfolio that he is, and I quote, "not in any way in agreement with Berger" and that he has "no time for Berger's argument that the northern pipeline threatens wildlife", will the Acting Prime Minister tell the House wheth-

er those remarks represent government policy or whether he intends to put a stopper in the mouth of the hon. gentleman to put an end to his bad habit of leading with his mouth from time to time?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: He's all yours now.

MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—REQUEST FOR TBLING OF
FENCO REPORT ON COST OVERRUNS

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister, and it concerns the Fenco study into cost overruns which the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources last February undertook to table in the House. This report has not been tabled, despite the fact that the minister has had it in his possession for nearly a month. Will the Acting Prime Minister now undertake to release this report, and in addition, will he tell this House whether this study or any other study undertaken by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has examined the vulnerability of the Alcan project to cost overruns?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will check into the possibility of discharging the minister's commitment, as stated by the hon. member, to make this report available. I have to check into it. I think the second question, on the face of it, would require a negative answer, but I will check on that, too.

● (1420)

Mr. Neil: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When an examination of the economics of the Alcan route is undertaken it should be remembered that the Dempster highway route is part and parcel of the Alcan route. Will the Acting Prime Minister give an undertaking that the study will include the Dempster highway route and the possibility of cost overruns on it?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, these are in the nature of representations that will be studied.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT—REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL
SUMMER WORKS PROJECTS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Acting Prime Minister. In the House yesterday he said that the programs the government has under way to deal with unemployment, including the allocation of funds for Canada Works and Young Canada Works, are based on anticipated high levels of unemployment. Considering that the most recent figure has established unemployment at 8.3 per cent—the highest level of unemployment since records have been kept—and considering that unemployment is higher today than the government's unofficial estimate