

Alberta that natural gas supplies are increasing constantly, and if he is prepared at this point to convene a conference or meeting with the natural gas producers of western Canada to discuss the feasibility of constructing additional pipelines for the distribution of natural gas to the eastern Canadian market?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have seen some of the recent reports as to the new finds. I believe they are of limited amounts. Under our system, if these new finds justify the construction of new lines the private entrepreneurs would make application to the National Energy Board, and the feasibility of the construction of such lines would be considered by that board which would make recommendations to the cabinet.

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BANKRUPTCY

MEASURES TO FORESTALL FURTHER BUSINESS FAILURES

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In light of the dismal fact that the year 1970 saw over 2,200 businesses fail in this country, representing liabilities totalling \$265 million, can he advise whether he has any plans for measures to forestall a further decline in Canadian business operations?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking a question which is very general in its terms. He is inviting the minister to give information which should be given by way of a general statement rather than at this time.

[Later:]

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the 841 bankruptcies in the metro Toronto area in 1970 and the closing of countless more small businesses, as well as unusual high unemployment across the country, will he not only get rid of the present budget but will he bring down an early emergency budget designed to relieve the general malaise in the country?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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POLLUTION

CONTAMINATION OF TRENT RIVER BY DOMTAR PULP AND PAPER AND BATA SHOE COMPANIES

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, at this moment of transition I am not sure whether I should address my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources or the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Since it concerns pollution perhaps I should address it to both.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Has the minister been informed of the report of the Ontario Water Resources Commission that tons of polluting wastes are being poured into the Trent River, and hence into Lake Ontario, by Domtar Pulp and Paper and the Bata Shoe Company, and will he consult with the Ontario authorities to put an end to this pollution of our navigable waters?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): The answer to both of these questions is yes, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

GRANT TO NORTHWESTERN QUEBEC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, my question is important enough to be directed to the right hon. Prime Minister.

A few days ago the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion issued a release to the effect that a subsidy of \$22,265, had been granted to the Conseil de développement social du Nord-Ouest québécois. I wonder whether the Prime Minister could obtain information concerning this subsidy to a half dozen socialists of Rouyn-Noranda who are financing a group known as "le block" and seek to upset and destroy everything in Canada instead of constructing—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Caouette: Could the right hon. Prime Minister have an inquiry made on this subject?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I shall take note of the question of the member and take up the matter with the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

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[English]

NATIONAL PARKS

ONTARIO—ESTABLISHMENT OF FACILITIES IN PACKESHAW RIVER AND GEORGIAN BAY AREAS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Can he say whether the government plans to establish two new national parks in Ontario this year, one in the Packeshaw River area and one in the Georgian Bay area?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I propose to allow the minister to reply to the question because he was allowed to reply to a similar question asked about another part of the country. I have cautioned hon. members before that