

ment has shown some flexibility lately with respect to regional air policy, I want to ask the minister if in his field he will review most seriously the application of Q and M Pipe Lines for a gas pipeline to Nova Scotia which was rejected by the National Energy Board recently.

It is a very important matter, and I would like the minister's assurance that he is not going to let the matter lie dormant when it can do so much good for the region.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I have already had two meetings with the promoters of the Q and M project and I have indicated to them that the government is still interested in seeing this project through. I have also asked them to continue their study on the environmental aspects brought up by the National Energy Board. I want to say to the hon. member that I hope he will take the same action not only with the Nova Scotia government but also, and especially, with the New Brunswick government, which has indicated some reservations as regards the rapid completion of this project. I hope to have the opportunity to discuss this again in the near future with my provincial colleagues.

[*English*]

Mr. MacKay: Madam Speaker, very briefly, I think I can assure the minister that the government of Nova Scotia fully supports this. I cannot speak for the government of New Brunswick. But I would remind him that there are great economic benefits as well as increased security of supply inherent in this application. Will the minister at least encourage the NEB to reopen the application?

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, I cannot force the NEB to reopen the application. The application can be looked at again only on the initiative of the sponsors of the project: this is where the next step or action could come from.

Again I would like to point out to the hon. member that I hope he is not suggesting we should ignore the reservations expressed by the government of New Brunswick. We should get the co-operation of all governments concerned in the maritimes before we can proceed with this particular project.

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● (1500)

THE CONSTITUTION

DISCUSSIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN ON PATRIATION

Hon. Jake Epp (Provencher): Madam Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Prime Minister. In his discussions with Prime Minister Thatcher of Britain, as well as with the leaders of the other political parties in Britain, and in view of those discussions with the three leaders in Britain, did he receive assurances from all of them that there would be quick

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passage of patriation of the Canadian Constitution once all steps were completed in Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): What were the last three words—once what?

Mr. Epp: Once all steps were completed in Canada.

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Madam Speaker, I received general assurances along those lines.

Mr. Epp: Those are general assurances. I am really asking the Prime Minister whether in those discussions there were any specifics raised as to the timetable. There have been some press stories. Were timetables discussed with the three leaders? Were any timetables agreed to between the Prime Minister and those three leaders?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Madam Speaker. The only way in which the problem of timing arose was when I indicated to Prime Minister Thatcher, and perhaps one or two of the other leaders, that we had a commitment in Canada to ensure renewal of the federation in all due haste. When I say we, I mean the Parliament of Canada and every provincial premier.

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POST OFFICE

INQUIRY RESPECTING PRINTING OF OLYMPIC STAMP

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parkdale-High Park): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General. The Postmaster General reported to this House some time ago that if the Soviet Union is not out of Afghanistan by July 4, 1980, Canada will not issue an Olympic stamp.

Would the minister consider printing the stamp as originally planned, but having the word "Boycotted" imprinted across each stamp? Would this not act as a more effective symbolic reminder to people in Canada and throughout the world that Canada is still boycotting the Moscow Olympic Games?

[*Translation*]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General): Madam Speaker, that is indeed a very interesting suggestion. Unfortunately, at this stage in the production of the stamps anything superimposed could damage the original stamp. Rather than that, I will announce tomorrow, in a press release, that this issue has been destroyed.