

POLLUTION

THREAT POSED BY TANKER TRANSPORT OF OIL FROM VALDEZ, ALASKA, TO CHERRY POINT, WASHINGTON— POSSIBLE MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that this past weekend at Blaine Peace Arch a large number of Canadians and Americans voiced their concern over west coast oil pollution flowing from the proposed tanker route from Alaska to Cherry Point, Washington, is the government making official representations to Washington requesting full consultation before further plans are proceeded with?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I said in the House the other day, I have already invited the Secretary of State of the United States to consult with us on this question.

Mr. Rose: Mr. Speaker, I realize that as this is an international problem the minister's initiatives are somewhat limited, but is he prepared to go as far as his high office will allow to assert and reassert forcefully whatever initiatives are open to Canada in this very important matter?

Mr. Sharp: We have no dispute with the United States government at the present time. No decision has been made to authorize the building of the trans-Alaska pipeline system. As I have said in the House, and I repeat it, I hope that all those concerned about the dangers of pollution, as I am and as the Canadian government is, will raise their voices quite clearly so that the decision by the board that is now examining the question can be made in light of these environmental considerations. It would not be appropriate at the present time for me to do more than consult with the United States government about any problems that may arise in the future.

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, in view of what the minister has just said, that we should make our representations known, is the government again making representations rather than inviting consultation? Are the minister and his department making representations in this regard?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, as I said previously in the House, a United States government board is holding hearings now on the question of whether the trans-Alaska pipeline project should go ahead. It would not be appropriate for the Canadian government to appear before such a United States body. A member of this House has appeared in his private capacity and in my view has made a most useful intervention. But I do believe it is important that all of those concerned, particularly the people affected in the state of Washington and in the province of British Columbia, should make their views about this question known so that at least this decision is made in the full knowledge of the very serious dangers of pollution that exist. I have no hesitation in saying on behalf of the Canadian government that we believe there are serious dangers of pollution.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Having regard to the delay in proceeding with the trans-Alaska pipeline system, may I ask whether any pressure has been brought to bear upon the Canadian government by United States oil companies for the building of a pipeline down the Mackenzie River Valley?

Mr. Sharp: No, I do not know of any pressure from United States oil companies. As the hon. member is aware, there has been discussion between the Canadian and United States governments on the subject of an oil policy and at that time there was some talk about whether the pipeline should be continued on to supply Montreal.

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): I should like to know whether the Secretary of State has received a reply to his letter of last Wednesday, I believe, to the United States Secretary of State on this question.

Mr. Sharp: We have not yet received a formal reply in writing but when my message was transmitted to the Secretary of State there were some informal soundings.

Mr. Harding: I have a further supplementary for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. When may we expect the results of the feasibility study being undertaken in connection with the projected Mackenzie Valley pipeline?

Mr. Sharp: I suggest that question should be directed to the minister directly concerned with these matters, namely, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who I expect will be here within the next day or so.

[Later:]

CANADIAN POSITION ON CONTINENTAL ENERGY POLICY

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs which really is supplementary to an earlier round of questions. Since it has been suggested by Robert Clark of the United States Bureau of Commercial Fisheries that our oil pollution problem could be solved by a United States-Canada energy policy, has the government yet made clear to the United States Canada's position on a continental energy policy?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I have said on other occasions, we are not discussing a continental energy policy. However, I think the hon. gentleman will agree that in so far as we have our own policies we should try to co-ordinate them for the mutual benefit of both countries.

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GRAIN

FAILURE OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONFERENCE TO REACH PRICE AGREEMENT—GUARANTEED MINIMUM DOMESTIC AND EXPORT PRICES

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): I have a question for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Since the