

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, October 12, 1983

The House met at 2 p.m.

● (1405)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

POLITICAL PARTIES

LIBERAL PROMISE TO CONSTRUCT NATURAL GAS PIPELINE TO MARITIMES

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Madam Speaker, the Government has been making overtures to the Canadian public in anticipation of the impending election. Before it begins making new election promises I would like to remind it of one promise it made Canadians almost four years ago.

In a series of remarks before the Halifax Board of Trade, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said, "I am announcing today, as part of our program, that a Liberal Government will take immediate action to ensure the full co-operation of all Parties in the construction of a natural gas pipeline to Quebec City and the Maritimes. The pipeline will have a reversible capacity so that Maritimers will have the opportunity, both to use western natural gas now and to send offshore gas to central Canada later".

Today we see that the Government has fulfilled its promise to the Quebec electorate but not to the Maritimers who are still dependent on oil imported from abroad. It is unreasonable to force Maritimers to buy foreign oil when Canada has the resources not only to satisfy our domestic needs but to export these resources abroad.

It would appear that the heady talk of energy self-sufficiency by 1990 was merely an election ploy designed to seduce Canadians with what they wanted to hear. It was not the talk of a responsible Government concerned with energy security and self-sufficiency, but of an irresponsible Party concerned with political security and self-sufficiency.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

CHURCHES' BRIEF ON CONDITIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Madam Speaker, yesterday a high level ecumenical delegation representing the major Canadian churches met with the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. MacEachen). The delegation included Archbishop James Hayes, the Archbishop of Halifax, who was

representing the Canadian Catholic Bishops, the Reverend Harry Hilchey who was representing the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, and Dr. John Foster who was representing the United Church of Canada and the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America. They presented the Secretary of State for External Affairs with a brief on Canadian policy in Central America.

I thank the Minister for seeing them and discussing these matters with them. I would now call upon the Minister to consider seriously the wide range of recommendations that were made by the group. These policy recommendations dealt with El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. Some members of the delegation had recently returned from that area and spoke of the massive human rights violations in Guatemala.

In the brief the delegation asked that Canada support particularly the Contadora group and the efforts that it is making to bring about peace in that area. Secondly, they asked for a clear and public statement to be made to the United States and Honduran Governments regarding Canada's opposition to the military manoeuvres and to the construction of new military bases, on the grounds that they undermine the spirit and the letter of the Contadora group. Finally, I would ask the Minister to immediately release the \$18 million line of credit that was pledged to Nicaragua.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

PERFORMANCE OF ECONOMY IN LAVAL AND LOWER LAURENTIAN REGIONS OF QUEBEC

Mr. Yves Demers (Duvernay): Madam Speaker, it is a fact that the Laval and Lower Laurentian regions are showing the best economic performance in the Province of Quebec at the present time. There are a number of reasons for this, and I would like to mention two of them: the people have a level of education that is above the national average, and co-operation among federal members, the Minister responsible and municipal representatives is very effective. I wish to thank the Cabinet for taking advantage of these facts in less than a year, the federal Government has established several high technology projects in the region, including the Institut d'ordinateur, an investment of \$12 million, the Institut de bureautique, costing \$11 million and last weekend, the project of the century in the aerospace industry, namely, the construction of a Bell Helicopter plant at Mirabel backed by a federal investment of