

if so, by whom? Has it been made by the National Energy Board, is it completed, and would the government be prepared to make it available?

Mr. Greene: I do not believe a feasibility study as such has been made in recent years or since the Borden report, but certainly the National Energy Board has the economic facts and figures under constant review. This gives them a very adequate idea from time to time of the economics of such a pipeline, so that if an application is made, they can give an informed decision in respect of such an application. But there is no total, complete and recent feasibility study as such.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I ask the minister if these studies which have been conducted by the National Energy Board indicate that the extension of the pipeline to Montreal would be economic and in the best interests of Canada?

Mr. Greene: The information I have is that even with the recent increase in world prices of oil it does not appear that a pipeline could be built to bring western oil into the Montreal market without increasing consumer prices for the Montreal consumers.

Mr. Woolliams: May I ask a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona. I should bring to the attention of hon. members the fact that once again we are nearing the end of the question period, and if we have seven or eight supplementary questions to three or four questions it will be almost impossible to take care of the entire question period. For the moment, the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

Mr. Hu Harries (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, could the minister tell us whether there has been any specific reference to the Energy Board to examine alternative ways of serving the Montreal market and, more specifically, has the Energy Board provided any figures? If so, could he say what those figures are which indicate that there would at this time be a price increase if western oil were serving the Montreal market?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, this is a very difficult question to answer during the question period since it requires a very comprehensive economic study. To the best of my knowledge and information, from the very comprehensive day to day information gathered and studied by the National Energy Board it appears that, of the various ways that are possible, the present system whereby the eastern market is served by offshore oil is the most economic for Canada. The eastern consumer has a good break and we are replacing our own oil resources with offshore oil, which is more economical than our own oil.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that the debate might be terminated at this stage, and that we might move to another part of the country.

[Later:]

Mr. Harries: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources table a summary of the figures which have resulted from the continuing study by the National Energy Board of the Montreal supplied market.

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to consider that question and give the hon. member an answer at a later date.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

SUGGESTED REMOVAL OF MINISTERIAL ROSTER ATTENDANCE SYSTEM

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and is really supplementary to a previous question. Inasmuch as criticism has been levelled at Parliament, and especially at the conduct of the opposition during the question period, and since we are being hindered in the question period by the roster system, would the Prime Minister agree to allow ministers to attend the House and to dispense with the roster system?

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FISHERIES

DESTRUCTION OF FISHING GEAR BY FOREIGN DRAGGERS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Is he in a position to tell the House what action he took yesterday with respect to the imposition of a 12-mile limit off the south coast of Newfoundland to deal with the minor incident, to use his words, that occurred? Also, is he prepared to revise the answer he gave yesterday with respect to this alleged minor incident?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, there is no revision. We made sure that the foreign vessels would not be coming within 12 miles of the coast.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, may I ask whether the minister took steps yesterday, by way of an announcement through the press, to state that the government has now defined our 12-mile limit within the sinuosity of the coast, as opposed to the straight baseline system, on the south coast of Newfoundland?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, there was no announcement to the press. However, we have communicated with all the skippers of all the trawlers in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.