Oral Questions

Mr. MacEachen: I will read to him what the Premier of Saskatchewan said. He made absolutely no reference to legislative guarantees. He said if the federal government made sure that the pipe could be made in Canada, the steel plant in Regina could expand its capacity, creating both construction work and nearly 500 permanent jobs. There was no suggestion of legislative guarantees. We are now assured that this pipe can be made in Canada.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I wish the Deputy Prime Minister would not bring in irrelevancies. If he would discuss the matter specifically with the Premier of Saskatchewan, he would find out that the Government of Canada does not guarantee it, and that is what he means.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

• (1427)

Mr. Broadbent: Will the Deputy Prime Minister now answer the question he was asked with regard to the government's intentions? Does the Government of Canada intend to live up to its promise and provide \$290 million in urban transit assistance to the municipalities of Canada? This would help many cities across the country. Specifically, does the government intend to live up to the commitment made to the city of Winnipeg to provide the new aircraft maintenance facility that was pledged in 1974?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the government usually lives up to its promises.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

NORTHERN PIPELINE—POSSIBILITY OF USING DISCARDED AUTOMOBILES IN MANUFACTURE OF PIPE

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. During the last few years, I have had the opportunity to travel with a former environment minister and other parliamentarians in the vast northern regions and we have seen large quantities of pipe that had been manufactured for the construction of a pipeline. Those pipes had been made in Japan. Given the fact that Canadians sell their used cars and that these cars are crushed and shipped to Japan and that these recycled materials are used in the manufacture of pipe that Canada buys for the construction of the pipeline, could the minister tell the House whether he would encourage Canadian industries to use these old cars and manufacture pipe that could be used in the construction of the pipeline which is proposed in Bill C-25 and which is the subject of our discussion here today?

[English]

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to comment on the technical feasibility of the hon. member's suggestion. However, I am confident that Canadian steel producers and manufacturers can produce the pipe that is required and will produce the pipe that is required. The companies that are preparing to build the pipeline are confident, on the basis of past performance and their knowledge of current prices throughout the world, that Canadian producers can provide this pipe. In circumstances where there is dumping or unfair trade practices, it will be possible for the pipeline agency that is proposed in the bill, and the minister, to take steps to ensure that such bids will not be accepted.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

I gather from the minister's answer that the matter has already been considered but I would like the minister to tell the House whether this question was examined when the agreement with the United States was signed in order to protect the interests of Canadian industries and contribute indirectly to alleviate the unemployment plague in Canada?

[English]

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the question f the use of Canadian manpower and Canadian materials was foremost in our minds during the negotiations. One of the objectives of the pipeline agreement was to ensure that each country would maximize its industrial and energy benefits. I believe the legislation that is now under discussion will make it possible to ensure that Canada will, indeed, maximize its industrial and energy benefits from this particular project.

[Translation]

NORTHERN PIPELINE—JOBS GUARANTEED TO CANADIANS IN CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Since the minister indicated that the agreement provides for guaranteed employment in both countries, can he tell us precisely what guarantee has been given to Canada in the agreement concerning employment in the construction of the pipeline?

• (1432)

[English]

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the basic guarantee of employment in Canada is the competitive capacity of Canadian producers. In our view, no such guarantee as the hon. member mentioned was necessary, because already Canadian producers of pipe are able to capture this market on a competitive basis. Indeed, in addition to their ability to compete in Canada, the Steel Company of Canada—