

admittedly must owe taxes or this would not be a proper legal procedure? Also, will he report what steps he is taking to relieve them as well as the small business community from some of these burdens? Will he inform the House later in the week just what steps are being taken?

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue): With regard to individual fishermen, Madam Speaker, if the hon. member has individual problems where fishermen have been assessed and they find it an undue burden, will he contact me personally, let me know what they are, and give me a list of names? I will ensure that my people are in touch with them directly in order to reach an adequate pay-back period with them.

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PIPELINES

ALASKA GAS PIPELINE—FINANCING OF PROJECT

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The minister knows that the pipeline consortium which proposed to build the Alaska highway natural gas pipeline is trying to get financing in the United States. Yesterday in Anchorage, Alaska, James Edwards, the Energy Secretary in the United States, was quoted as saying that the Reagan administration:

—“has some real concerns” about asking U.S. consumers to pay for current construction on the project’s Canadian leg regardless of whether the most difficult segment across Alaska is ever completed.

The article further states that this, and I quote:

—is the first clear cut indication the White House opposes major elements of the financing package the pipeline’s backers are developing.

The government promised that it had guarantees from the United States. It promised that Canadians would not end up paying for what is essentially an American pipeline. I would like to ask the minister about these ironclad guarantees and what he is going to do about the fact that it appears the Americans are backing out slightly with regard to their support for this pipeline.

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I understand that the Prime Minister discussed this issue with the President on July 10. The discussion was positive. The President reaffirmed the commitments which he made during his visit here in March. We expect amendments to be introduced in the American Congress shortly which will attend to this matter.

QUERY RESPECTING EXPORT OF CANADIAN GAS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, with respect to that conversation with the United States the Canadian Press story reports, and I quote:

Oral Questions

Reagan assured Trudeau the United States is “deeply interested in coming to an arrangement” about reducing acid rain, but said only that the administration “will continue to examine” problems associated with the pipeline.

That does not sound very positive or ironclad. Is the minister now prepared to say to President Reagan, Secretary Edwards and the U.S. administration, that unless they are prepared to help with legislation in the United States—and we all want to see the whole pipeline built—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Waddell: Maybe my friends don’t, but if they will just listen—that the Canadian government is prepared to cut off at some point the exports of Canadian gas through the prebuild, that it is not open ended, that we will cut that off if the American government is not prepared to pass legislation in the United States to support the financing of the whole line?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the presidential assurances during the visit in March were given not only to the Prime Minister privately but, to my recollection, they were given in this very chamber and, I presume, heard by the hon. member. We are satisfied with the tone and content of our negotiations with the Americans on this subject at the present time.

● (1500)

SUGGESTED CANADIAN ACTION

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, I have one final question. It is all very well for the minister to say that, and we heard the President. The fact is that here is James Edwards saying these things yesterday in Alaska, and we know of the conversation with Prime Minister Trudeau.

The American government has said it does not want American consumers to shoulder the burden of building a pipeline, part of which is the rest of the Canadian section. The minister must know that if we build that section and the Americans do not complete theirs, then the Canadian taxpayer will lose some \$2 billion to \$8 billion. What is he prepared to say to the Americans, beyond just saying in this House that we have some jelly-like assurances? What is he prepared to say? I would suggest something he can say. Will he say: We will not give you cheap Canadian gas unless you give us some guarantees that you are going to do something about building this whole line?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the hon. member seems to misunderstand the tenor of our present negotiations with the United States. As I mentioned in my answer to his first question, we expect a package of legislative amendments to be introduced in the U.S. Congress shortly which we believe will provide for the financing problems, and it is because of that expectation that we do not have to engage in the kind of threats the hon. member was suggesting.