

ingness to consider the Mackenzie Valley route and has set up the extensive feasibility studies necessary to determine whether a Mackenzie Valley pipeline for oil and gas can be constructed to transport these products through our country to the markets of the central continent.

Furthermore, the government has been active in putting forward, by diplomatic memoire, by personal contact and by public statement both in this House and otherwise, the danger to Canada and to the American west coast which would result from the TAPS route. Of course we are disappointed. We regret that the American government, notwithstanding this, has decided to go ahead with the TAPS route. We must acknowledge, however, that it is their decision and they have the right to do this. I would not go so far as the hon. member for York South and suggest that this is an unfriendly act.

Even now it is not too late for the United States administration, as an act of comity, to reverse its decision, to be prepared to halt construction of the TAPS pipeline and come forward with a new proposal; that is, to participate with the companies which probably today or early next week will be announcing their intention to go ahead with a Mackenzie Valley route. On that basis we could be assured that in future the kind of damage which occurred in Puget Sound and which has been experienced in Canada will not be caused to the west coast.

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Speaker, would the minister permit a question?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): By all means.

Mr. Nielsen: The day before yesterday I asked the minister whether he had received an application from any company or consortium for the construction of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline, and he answered that no formal application had been received.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): That is right.

Mr. Nielsen: What he has just said comes as a startling revelation. He has indicated that he expects applications to be made some time next week for the construction of a pipeline.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): No, Mr. Speaker, that is not what I said, as the hon. member will see if he reads *Hansard*. I said previously that we have received no formal application. However, we have received an indication that consortiums are getting together with regard to making an application. So my statement stands that no formal application has been made.

Mr. Nielsen: The minister said, "Next week." He suggested there would be an application next week.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I expect that next week or, shall we say, in the very near future there may be such application. There have been a number of indications to suggest that applications will be coming to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development with regard to the land route. In large measure he and I will have to wait for those submissions to be made. We have reason to believe, from certain statements—the hon. member has had as much opportunity as I have had to gather this

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impression from news reports—that the consortiums expect to get together and make an application.

Therefore, it would be constructive and would help the proposal made by the hon. member for Fraser Valley East, and supported by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, if we put under the jurisdiction of the International Joint Commission the resolution of the problem regarding tanker shipments both in the east and in the west, both in the waters of Puget Sound and in the international waters of eastern Canada. I would therefore hope we might have the support of the whole House, not only for the resolution but for the amendment.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I am certainly glad that I was present today to hear the speech delivered by the minister, for it represented 30 minutes of exculpation without information. What it lacked in common sense is made up in vociferous delivery. I have always liked listening to the hon. member because one has no difficulty hearing what he has to say.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I am very glad to hear that.

Mr. Diefenbaker: This is an occasion that illustrates exactly the degree to which this House has been made to look ridiculous. The government either has not come with information or it has provided information that is not in accordance with the facts.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Not at all.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister laughs because he has been one of the main destroyers of this institution.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I have heard enough.

Mr. Crouse: The minister cannot take it.

Mr. Diefenbaker: His leaving is in keeping with the courage he has always displayed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: He makes a speech, we listen to him, he realizes it is foolish, ridiculous and full of incongruous statements, and away he goes because he does not want to be present when one reveals his total lack of consideration for the rights of Parliament. He does not want to hear what one says and thinks, apparently, that no one else will hear it. His leaving means that two ministers out of 30 remain in the House. Ministers of the Crown have responsibilities, but they are not held although this is supposed to be a most serious debate.

Mr. Basford: They will be here for the vote.

Mr. Diefenbaker: There is no question about that. Those automatons who are controlled by the government will be here for the vote. I am glad to receive that admission from the hon. gentleman. That is a most irresponsible statement and shows the degree to which this government has polluted Parliament. In other words, debate is no longer important. Ministers come in and deliver speeches which