

assurance now that the government will give consideration to the question of the steel industry at the same time legislation is brought down to deal with the coal industry?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the program that I have been talking about deals primarily with the coal industry and industrial development and economic development in the area, and all factors that concern economic and industrial development will be under consideration.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): The negotiations that the government is going to enter into will be with Dominion Coal, but will the Prime Minister keep in mind that this also concerns DOSCO and the assets of Dominion Coal? Would he review the matter to see if it would be legal for the government to take over DOSCO instead of just Dominion Coal?

Mr. Pearson: I am quite aware of the relationship between the two, Mr. Speaker.

ENERGY

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S.

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Could the minister advise the house what progress is being made by the National Energy Board in negotiations with its opposite numbers in the United States government regarding the setting of progressively increasing targets for the sale of gas and oil to the United States market year by year?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Great progress, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hees: As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, could the minister give us a little more information than just the bland general answer "great progress?"

Mr. Pepin: This is a fairly general question to be dealt with on orders of the day but I might say, as the hon. member knows very well, that this is an annual rite. Each year the Canadian government presents its case in Washington; we are preparing that case now and we will be presenting it to the Americans soon.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

EDUCATION

TORONTO—POSSIBLE CLOSING OF SCHOOLS FOR IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Has the minister received a communication from the chairman of the Toronto board of education in relation to the possible early closing of English language schools for immigrant children? If so, has the government considered or will it consider financial assistance to prevent this closing of schools which are so important for these youngsters who have come to Canada?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not remember having received such a communication from the chairman of the school board. I shall check into this and possibly may be able to give an answer tomorrow.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT BY MINISTER ON CARROTHERS REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. J. Orange (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Can the minister elaborate on press reports that he will be making a statement on the Carrothers commission report some time in mid-February? If so, will this statement be made by the minister in the Territories, possibly through the medium of the C.B.C. northern service?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I can do anything at this time other than reiterate what I have already said. I hope to make an announcement with respect to the adoption of those portions of the Carrothers report which we can embrace at once, and with respect to the appointment of a new commissioner for the Northwest Territories, within a month's time. It is my hope that I will make that announcement within the Territories.

Mr. David MacDonald (Prince): Could the minister tell us whether at that time he will also designate the new capital of the Northwest Territories. This is a question I asked quite some time ago.

Mr. Laing: That decision will be announced at that time also.