

● (1610)

With respect to oil prices, if my honourable friend expects me to comment on that—though I appreciate the impropriety of reviving the debate and taking a second crack at it—I merely wish to say that in no way can my remarks be interpreted as being an effort to stir up jealousy in connection with the matter, but as a reflection on the whole self-sufficiency oil policy, which is not an Alberta problem but a Canadian problem.

Senator Perrault: Honourable senators, may I point out the source of the government's concern about the manner in which the honourable senator has dealt with the issue of Prince Rupert today. The question was: Will the \$43 million be reinstated? The \$43 million was never withdrawn. These are headlines which were spread abroad by Conservative members of Parliament. The headline "Uproar breaks on Pepin for abandoning Rupert" is found in the Saturday, March 29, 1980 issue of the *Victoria Times*. The article states:

A decision by Transport Minister Jean-Luc Pepin to back out of a federal promise to provide funds for a badly-needed grain terminal at Prince Rupert is being roundly condemned.

That is a mischievous statement which is being circulated by members of the opposition in western Canada, members who primarily purport to be representing the best interest of western Canada in the Parliament of Canada. These are being

circulated by both Conservative and New Democratic members of Parliament.

Senator Murray: It was circulated by the Canadian Press. If the minister wishes to say that his colleague has been misquoted, that is all he need say.

Senator Perrault: I remind the honourable senator that I am on my feet, and urge him to observe a certain degree of parliamentary decorum.

If the honourable senator is concerned about the facts of this matter, let me remind him that the National Harbours Board is meeting this week with the consortium to finalize, hopefully, the formal agreement. We hope to see the document signed within one month, and on-site construction work could begin this summer. The total funds expected are \$42.5 million. From British Columbia, \$4.6 million; from Alberta, \$4.1 million; and possibly some money coming from the Saskatchewan government. There are some negotiations to be completed with respect to the cost of the new dock, and this matter is, I understand, under consideration by the consortium and the National Harbours Board. I shall do my very best to make sure that the honourable senator is invited to the opening of this great project for western Canada.

Senator Roblin: I shall be pleased to go.

Senator Smith (Colchester): We hope he does not have to wait too long.

Senator Perrault: You are invited too.

On motion of Senator Macquarrie, debate adjourned.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.
