

that are currently taking place between Canada and France in respect of that country's claim to certain portions of the continental shelf off eastern Canada. In light of the treaty of 1763 by which Britain ceded St. Pierre and Miquelon to France, has the government of Canada taken any position whereby Canada would concede any portion of the continental shelf to France in light of the provisions of that treaty?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the upshot of my comments was that we had been discussing various forms of an agreement with France and, as in negotiations of this type, both parties had different points of view and no agreement had been reached yet. But we are hopeful that one can be reached in the future on the basis of the different propositions, either from Canada or from the French.

• (1430)

Mr. McGrath: May I ask the Prime Minister what position Canada is taking with respect to the provisions of the Treaty of Paris of 1763, and may I also ask the Prime Minister whether the province of Newfoundland has been consulted with respect to these negotiations, bearing in mind that province's special claim to the continental shelf as a result of the Act of Union of 1949?

Mr. Trudeau: It is hard to have a unique opinion on the Treaty of Paris of 1763. Various results flowed from it for various parts of the country. I can only say that it is an historic fact, that we in Quebec are prepared to live with it and I hope that you in Newfoundland are also prepared to live with it.

Mr. McGrath: May I ask the Prime Minister whether Canada is prepared to concede that France has any claim whatsoever to any portion of the continental shelf off eastern Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I do not think it would be to the advantage of Canada for me to say publicly what our negotiating posture is. But the hon. member himself must realize that in so far as there is any territorial water at all around an island, some of it must lie over the continental shelf.

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INDUSTRY

COAL MINING, NOVA SCOTIA—FULFILMENT BY PROVINCE OF OBLIGATION RESPECTING INDEPENDENT OPERATIONS UNDER AGREEMENT WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Would he give consideration to examining the original agreement entered into between the federal government and the province of Nova Scotia with regard to the take-over of Dosco Mines in Nova Scotia and make a statement in the House on whether or not the government of the province of Nova Scotia is living up to its end of that agreement?

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Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, part of that agreement is not under my administration but under that of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

With regard to the McBean mine, if that is what the hon. member has in mind, I would be prepared to consider making a statement in the House on the government's position about continuation of the mining operation.

Mr. Coates: Would the minister, in co-operation with his colleague, examine the position of the province of Nova Scotia with regard to its obligation to undertake the responsibility for all independent coal mine operations in Nova Scotia because of the agreement of the federal government to assume obligation for the Dosco operations in Cape Breton? From that point of view I wonder whether the minister would consider making a statement to indicate whether or not the government of Nova Scotia is living up to its part of the agreement?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I am certainly prepared to discuss that with my colleague.

SUGGESTED ENLARGEMENT OF JURISDICTION OF DEVCO TO INCLUDE THORBURN COLLIERY

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, the minister may have already answered my supplementary question, but would he consider, while he is looking over the general situation, enlarging the jurisdiction of Devco to include control over the Thorburn colliery since there is already an indirect administrative connection?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the government of Canada entered into an agreement with the government of Nova Scotia and the colliery itself for the phasing out of that particular operation. The coal body in essence has been substantially exhausted at this time and it was agreed that the government of the province of Nova Scotia would assume the responsibility for the winding up of the mine operation. As the hon. member knows, I have seen the respective interests down there and communicated to them the government's decision: it would be in the best interests of all concerned to take other means, such as manpower policies, to deal with that situation rather than to try to keep a virtually exhausted mine going.

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POLLUTION

THREAT TO WEST COAST FROM PROPOSED TAPS TANKER ROUTE—SUGGESTED REQUEST THAT UNITED STATES JOIN IN REFERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs arising out of the answer he gave me on April 21 as recorded at page 1515 of *Hansard* in which the minister indicated that Cherry Point was not necessarily a terminal for the TAPS program. Has his