

urgency. I will undertake to ensure that when we have finished this set of negotiations, we will be in a position to announce our entire energy policy. I hope very much it will encompass the building of such a pipeline.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Forrestall: Madam Speaker, I welcome the temperate intervention by the Prime Minister: it gives us some assurance. But, after all, he made the promise last January and it is now the middle of July.

My supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The points raised by Premier Hatfield of New Brunswick, in particular, and to a lesser degree by Premier Buchanan of Nova Scotia, were in fact legitimate concerns for any province with respect to costing and some other matters.

Will the minister give some indication to those in the maritimes as to whether he favours the development down river from Quebec of a super, major oil port that would handle, for example, Arctic gas, Hibernian oil, imports from OPEC, and so on, or whether he subscribes to the view of the Prime Minister that the government still attaches some urgency to at least giving the maritimes an opportunity to join in the economic activity that is associated with, related to and flows from the activity of a major oil or gas pipeline, in this case a gas pipeline?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I think I have already indicated to the hon. member, but I am very happy to repeat when speaking to the question he raises, that the first priority of this government obviously has to be a decision on whether there should be an extension of the gas pipeline to the maritime provinces. That is definitely our first priority.

OVERLAND OIL PIPELINE ROUTE IN B.C.—NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Since the United States west coast refineries at the moment are in a surplus supply position, reducing the need for extended tanker traffic down the B.C. west coast, will the minister advise what progress he is making with the U.S. administration to ensure that the preferred Canadian overland pipeline route can proceed in the future?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I took the opportunity at my last meeting with the Secretary of State for Energy of the United States to indicate quite clearly that the federal government still prefers the overland route in terms of the future oil pipeline. This has been the consistent view of this party. We lost no time in reiterating our view in this regard to the American authorities, even though they may have been confused for a certain period as to what the view of the federal

government was at the time the hon. member's party was in office.

Miss Carney: My supplementary is also directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Since the government of British Columbia has indicated that it is not willing to proceed with the construction of the Alaska gas pipeline link through northeast B.C. until it reaches a financial agreement with the federal government on the financing of the social infrastructure, will the minister tell us what steps he is taking to ensure that these agreements will be in place in time for the Alaska gas pipeline to proceed?

● (1440)

Mr. Lalonde: These discussions have been taking place over the last several years and they are continuing. This is a continuing issue and it has not been resolved as yet. As the hon. member knows, the whole question of the Alaska gas pipeline has many aspects. This is one of them, and the discussions will carry on.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

INQUIRY WHEN SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED TO SEPT-ÎLES

Mr. André Maltais (Manicouagan): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State and Minister of Communications. My intervention reflects a regional concern. It concerns the French CBC network which for six years has been scheduling the establishment of facilities in the North Shore area. I would like to know whether the minister intends to take action to force the corporation to meet its schedule or even anticipate on the plans established a full six years ago. Land was purchased six years ago in Sept-Îles, yet never since has the corporation shown any interest in a population living along 600 miles of coast and as far as 1,250 miles inland. So my question is this: Does the minister really intend to take action to compel the corporation finally to establish facilities in Sept-Îles, and does he intend to meet with the corporation management so that they follow up on their own commitment in this regard?

Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, I know that for a very long time the hon. member for Manicouagan has shown concern over this matter which is of great interest for the people in his area and in the whole North Shore area. So I would like to indicate to the hon. member that unfortunately I do not have the authority required to compel the CBC to meet the commitments he has mentioned. However, I can assure him that I have already made representations on his behalf to the corporation and that within the next few days I intend to meet with the management to discuss this matter.