

Oral Questions

TRANSPORT

REPORT ON PLANE CRASH NEAR FROBISHER BAY—DATE OF PUBLICATION

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Transport. When will he table the report on Frobisher Bay for which we have waited so long?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I hope to have the report this week.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PURPOSE OF DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES ON TRANSPORTATION OF ALASKAN OIL ACROSS CANADA

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It arises from a reply he gave on Thursday, as reported at page 277 of *Hansard*. On that occasion he said the House was well aware of the attitude consistently taken by the government. We knew as long ago as July, 1973, that the government was just beginning to fight. We also knew that certain conversations were being opened up with the United States.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member please ask his question.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, are the conversations merely exploratory, to determine if there are sufficient clean-up materials in areas likely to be affected, or are they negotiations designed to keep tankers out of Puget Sound and the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the line between conversations and negotiations is hard to determine at times. In this case we regard them as very important discussions or negotiations in an effort to protect, insofar as it is possible, Canadian interests in this respect. As the hon. member knows, it is a very complex subject. It is very difficult to indicate in an answer the variety of positions that have been put forward by both sides.

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● (1130)

ENERGY

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN NOVA SCOTIA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I have a short but very important question I wish to address to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. What is the status of negotiations between the federal government and the government of Nova Scotia on the establishment of nuclear power in Nova Scotia?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, our original hope was that

[Mr. Trudeau.]

we could have achieved a regional expansion of nuclear power systems by a second unit to be located in New Brunswick. The first unit would have been for New Brunswick purposes and the second unit for purposes of other provinces, including Nova Scotia. Regrettably, it was not possible to come to agreement on the second unit. I intend to have some discussions with the premier in the relatively near future in relation to the interest that has been expressed both in the press and elsewhere with regard to the possibility of a nuclear unit in Nova Scotia. Of course, the federal policy still remains, the offer of 50 per cent of the capital cost of the first nuclear unit in each province. Nova Scotia would be entitled to the benefit of that. Of course, it also remains federal policy to try to shift thermal power units from fossil fuels, particularly imported oil, to nuclear wherever possible.

EFFECT OF PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS ON DEVELOPMENT OF FUNDY TIDAL POWER AND COAL RESOURCES

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Will the minister indicate whether the negotiations that have taken place with Nova Scotia in connection with nuclear power are in any way endangering the negotiations that have been going on with regard to the establishment of Fundy tidal power as well as the development of our coal resources in the mainland of Nova Scotia which are there and have only to be used to produce additional electrical capacity for the province.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the Fundy tidal power, that would in fact be interruptible power because of its nature. It would not be as effective in a firm base as would a coal-fueled or nuclear station. With regard to the possible use of coal resources, particularly in the hon. member's constituency, I think it remains an important option for Nova Scotia as to whether to proceed the coal route at this time rather than proceeding with nuclear power. This is an important choice to be made.

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AGRICULTURE

BEEF CATTLE—SUGGESTED NEED FOR AID TO PRODUCERS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. As it is now more than two weeks since the four western premiers called for a crash economic aid program to help small and medium sized beef producers, since many will possibly be going out of business, is the Prime Minister in a position to announce programs that will aid these beef producers in western Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, there is nothing to be added to what we have already done.