

have investigated this situation to see whether it is within the Canadian law dealing with these matters?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is my impression that our existing combines law does not apply to services. Perhaps in due course the hon. member will support new legislation that will help cover the supply of services within Canada.

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ENERGY

BRITISH COLUMBIA PROPOSAL TO USE RAIL TRANSPORTATION FOR ALASKAN OIL—STUDY BY FEDERAL DEPARTMENT—PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources arising out of his appearance on the television program, "Question Period". Since the minister has stated that the Canadian government would be inclined to refuse the United States access to the Mackenzie Valley route were it not for the danger of oil spills on the west coast, may I ask if he is having a thorough study made of the proposal of the government of British Columbia for a partial railroad and partial underground pipeline to transport oil from Prudhoe Bay to the United States?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has some reservations about the way the question was asked. The minister will be allowed to reply on the assumption that the question was asked directly rather than on the basis of a statement made outside the House.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I should make it clear that the remark was with regard to an oil pipeline rather than a gas pipeline specifically because at the moment the oil reserves have not been identified to the same degree in the Mackenzie Delta. I can confirm to the hon. gentleman that it is the intention of my department along with the others affected, the Department of Transport and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to examine Premier Barrett's proposal very closely. I believe as a first step a group will be contacting the provincial government at an early date to see on what advance studies of the ecology, engineering and economics the Barrett proposal was based.

Mr. Douglas: In view of the fact that in answer to a question I asked last week the minister and the Prime Minister seemed to have some preference for the Mackenzie Valley route pipeline because it would carry Canadian oil as well as American oil, I want to ask the minister if there are any proven reserves in the Mackenzie Valley or whether it is correct, as the chairman of the National Energy Board has said, that this pipeline would be used exclusively for American oil, certainly for some time to come?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The suggestion, Mr. Speaker, was the development of the Mackenzie corridor. Given

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the fact that it would only be possible to develop one such corridor in this current decade, it seemed to us to make more sense to develop one which would serve Canadian resources, in this case natural gas, as well as American oil and natural gas, than one which would serve the United States alone.

Mr. Douglas: As the government seems to have pretty well made up its mind, provided the Americans are agreeable, to proceed with the Mackenzie Valley project, may I ask the minister if the government has completed its ecological studies of such a pipeline and whether these will be prepared and made public prior to an application being entertained by the National Energy Board?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I should correct the hon. gentleman. In my remarks on television I said that the government would be prepared to entertain an application. Since the jurisdiction rests with the board it would, of course, have to decide in the first instance whether an application could go ahead. A great many of the studies have been completed and have been published. My recollection is that my colleague, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, provided a very lengthy list of those already published and an even longer one of those to be published, along with the publication dates, to the standing committee to which he was reporting.

PROPOSED WEST COAST OIL TANKER ROUTE— PRESENTATION OF CANADIAN POSITION TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary in reference to the national interest of Canada only. In light of the fact that there is a congressional hearing which will decide whether the United States will transport crude petroleum down the west coast in international waters off Canada from Alaska to the west coast of the United States, has the Canadian government set out a firm position to the United States so that before a decision is taken in the next month they will at least know where we stand in reference to the ecology and economics of that situation? I ask this question particularly in view of the minister's statement on "Question Period" yesterday as to a Mackenzie pipeline for either crude petroleum or natural gas.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I would remind the hon. gentleman on that supplementary that the statement of that position was provided in correspondence between myself and Secretary Morton which was laid upon the table of the House during the last session. We have continued to make it evident through diplomatic channels that that position is clear. President Nixon has made it quite clear, to borrow his phrase, that in no way is the present United States administration interested in the Canadian route. All the information on the Canadian route has been made available to the American authorities. The United States administration is obviously determined on its own route.