

Oral Questions

anything further to what I said to the hon. member for St. John's West.

Mr. Nielsen: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. This is not the only report the minister is hiding from hon. members and the Canadian people. A report prepared by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion states that under policies identical to those the government has embodied in the legislation now before us, Canadian content could be reduced to 67 per cent. Will the Deputy Prime Minister now come clean and release this report immediately, so that members may compare his statements and promises of yesterday with the prognostications of his officials?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that there are all sorts of memoranda, reports and information prepared for the use of the government. It is not normal to table documents which are prepared for that purpose. However, I will consider what information can be made available. With respect to the particular report which has been referred to in the House and elsewhere, it is true that the department did prepare a "worst possible" scenario which, in the worst possible case, could result in Canadian content of the percentage mentioned by the hon. member. It seems to me this was a very useful thing to do because it provides us with information on where we are vulnerable and the steps we can take to overcome these difficulties.

As far as I am concerned, I have not changed the statement I have made so often, which has been confirmed by the proposed builders of the pipeline, that we will be able to produce approximately 100,000 man-years of employment as a result of this project.

● (1422)

Mr. Nielsen: If the Deputy Prime Minister and the government have nothing to hide, I find it difficult to understand this cover-up. Will the Acting Prime Minister, in his capacity as House leader, now unequivocally give the House the assurance that the government will unconditionally support any and all requests made by the select committee that has been set up to study the provisions of the bill concerning the pipeline for the subpoena of material and witnesses during its consideration of the bill?

Mr. MacEachen: No, Mr. Speaker; I do not propose to anticipate proceedings that will arise in the committee and give unqualified undertakings concerning unknown requests.

* * *

URBAN AFFAIRS**WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR QUEBEC CITY—
APPLICATION OF PROGRAMS TO OTHER CITIES**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, considering the receptive, if belated, questions about the government's cover-up on the pipeline, I cannot understand why the hon. member for Yukon gave the government assurance

[Mr. MacEachen.]

yesterday that the Conservatives would give speedy passage to the bill.

I have a question for the Deputy Prime Minister. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, plus five other cabinet ministers who were in Quebec city, announced a \$42 million waterfront development program for that city.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Given the need for precisely such programs at a time when more than one million Canadians are unemployed, will the Deputy Prime Minister indicate to the House whether this is to be part of a package of proposals which will include other cities in Canada, or is it simply traditional Liberal pork-barrel electioneering in the province of Quebec?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, it is already part of a package of projects to ensure additional jobs in the country. The hon. member might himself update some of the positive proposals that were made at the federal-provincial conference and were so well supported by the Premier of Saskatchewan, including the Alcan pipeline which he said was a key project and ought to get under way at once.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

LABOUR CONDITIONS**NORTHERN PIPELINE—JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANADIANS**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister is really ready for the Senate. I remind him that the Premier of Saskatchewan said yesterday, at the conference to which the minister alluded, "provided job guarantees and preferential treatment are given to Canadians". This seems to have escaped the memory of the Deputy Prime Minister. More specifically, in 1974 the Prime Minister promised, on one hand \$290 million of assistance for urban transit which would help cities, other than those in Quebec—for example, Halifax, Vancouver and Toronto. Also, in 1974 he promised the city of Winnipeg an aircraft maintenance-facility that would guarantee 800 jobs. Winnipeg has an empty hangar as a result of that promise, and no city has received money for urban transit assistance.

I ask the Deputy Prime Minister, in all seriousness, given the commitment made in Quebec city yesterday, whether the government of Canada intends to live up to this four-year old promise made to other cities in Canada, before the next election?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member does not spruce up his information-collection ability, he will be ready for the back bench.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!