

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY****RIGHT OF TANKERS TO PROCEED THROUGH
NORTHWEST PASSAGE WITH ASSISTANCE
OF FOREIGN ICEBREAKERS**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a question arising out of the statement made yesterday by the Minister of Transport that an oil tanker proceeding through the Northwest Passage would not be given icebreaking assistance by Canada unless it complied with standards that Canada might lay down. I ask the minister whether it is the policy of the government of Canada to permit such tankers to proceed through this passage with the assistance of foreign icebreakers?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As far as I know, Mr. Speaker, there are no foreign icebreakers that would be suitable to deal with the conditions found in the Canadian Arctic. This was demonstrated on the first voyage of the *Manhattan* and I know of no change since.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question. Is it the policy of the government of Canada to permit tankers to proceed through the strait with the support of foreign icebreakers, whether or not the Secretary of State for External Affairs knows of their existence?

Mr. Sharp: That is another very hypothetical question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

POLLUTION**SUGGESTED MORATORIUM ON SECOND TRIP OF
"MANHATTAN" PENDING PASSAGE OF
LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS**

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which I should like to direct to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister consider implementing a moratorium on the second trip of the *Manhattan* until the McTaggart-Cowan task force reports and adequate legislation and pollution regulations to protect Canadian interests fully have been drafted and passed by the House?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the House knows, it is the intention of the government to bring forward legislation to control shipping of this kind in order to prevent pollution

[Mr. Haidasz.]

in the north, if that is possible. Of course, even with the very best intentions pollution sometimes cannot be prevented. As the Minister of Transport has said, the necessary steps are being taken to ensure that the *Manhattan* is as safe as it can be.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the Humble Oil Company or, indeed, any other oil company, yet been informed as to the regulations they will have to meet in order to be able to enter the strait?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker, but they will be.

Mr. Harding: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, which I will direct to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will a moratorium be implemented until legislation containing safeguards has been passed by the House?

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me that the hon. member is repeating the question that he asked in the first instance.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. I wonder whether the minister or the government have given any thought to putting an all-Canadian ship through instead of the *Manhattan*, or is he in the arms of the United States?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. I wonder whether the minister could indicate when the legislation which will set out the regulations will be before the House?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated yesterday, we are moving forward with the legislation as rapidly as we can. If I may reiterate what I said yesterday, even though the legislation is not passed, the regulations which would flow from it will in fact be conveyed to the Humble Oil Company, and they will be obliged to agree to them before icebreaker assistance is provided.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I ask the co-operation of hon. members to move on to another subject.