

Inquiries of the Ministry

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas: I should like to ask the Prime Minister about the second invitation which was extended by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to United States oil companies to come into Canada and develop the Canadian north.

An hon. Member: And take over the country.

Mr. Douglas: Was the minister stating government policy, and is it the intention of the government to invite foreign capital to develop the Canadian north before the white paper on foreign ownership has been completed?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, it has always been the position of this government that a certain amount of foreign capital was needed to develop this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: I know of no provincial government, not even the government of Manitoba, which takes a contrary position. As far as our general policies concerning foreign investment are concerned, of course we will make them known in due course. I do not think this is reason to suggest now that all foreign investment in Canada must be delayed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

POSSIBLE MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—
ECOLOGICAL STUDIES

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Who is making the ecological study in the north in respect of the proposed oil pipeline which would be a hot line and a possible threat because of the permafrost? Is this study being made by his department or are any United States oil companies or the American government involved? Will this information be submitted to the National Energy Board before any decision is made by that body?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had taken the trouble to read my statement of last week, he would have noted that I said that my department and others were studying this question. In my speech yesterday, in Denver, I told the Americans that they would be welcome to invest in Canada, and that if they built a pipeline, they would have to follow the directives that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources had conveyed to the House and that I repeated last August.

[English]

MACKENZIE VALLEY—POLICY RESPECTING CONSTRUCTION
OF GAS PIPELINE

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development if his department or the government is now making a definite distinction between a gas pipeline and an oil pipeline, as implied in his speech? If

[Mr. Douglas.]

this is the case, is the construction of a gas pipeline definitely government policy now?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I said in my speech that the government anticipated less trouble with a gas pipeline than with an oil pipeline. Of course, the building of a gas pipeline could be carried out faster. However, we are considering both prospects simultaneously.

[English]

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker, has the minister or his department received a definite proposal in respect of a gas or oil pipeline for approval or rejection?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: No, Mr. Speaker, neither the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources nor myself have so far received any formal proposal from the industry.

[English]

USE OF FOREIGN CAPITAL TO DEVELOP NORTHERN
RESOURCES—CLAUSE IN BILL C-187

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I have a supplementary question for the minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of his invitation to participate, extended to foreign investment capital, in the development of oil, gas and other mineral resources in the north, is it now the government's expressed intention to remove the foreign ownership clause from Bill C-187 respecting minerals in the Yukon Territory?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, it is the privilege of a Liberal to be called a socialist by a Conservative, and a Conservative by a socialist.

[English]

POSSIBLE MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—EFFECT
ON WILDLIFE

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Apparently his wildlife officials have not yet completed their study of ecological problems. Have they indicated that in principle it is possible to build pipelines without disturbing the wildlife in that area of the north?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I said a moment ago that all questions concerning the construction of pipelines in the North are now under study, and that research has been conducted for more than two years in this field. We have much more information at this time than we had two years ago, including information concerning wildlife, but we are not yet in a position to make a final decision on this matter.