

## ENERGY

OIL—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ENSURE CONTINUED  
EXPLORATION TO MEET FUTURE NEEDS

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources regarding announcements by some of the subsidiaries of United States' oil companies operating in Canada that they intend to reduce their expenditures on exploration for oil. The minister has characterized these statements as blackmail, and quite properly so in my opinion. What steps does the government intend to take to ensure that oil exploration in Canada shall continue at a rate sufficient to meet the needs of the country in 1982 and 1983 when, according to the National Energy Board, we shall face a critical situation?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** The budgetary measures announced by the Minister of Finance are an indication of the room to move made available to the oil industry, in a financial sense, so that it can carry on its exploration. It seems to me that the timing and manner of the announcement on the part of the various companies was unwise.

ATHABASCA, ALBERTA—GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN  
TAR SANDS PROJECT

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** A supplementary question. Having regard to statements by Imperial Oil and Gulf Oil that they are re-examining their financial commitment with respect to the construction of the Syncrude plant in the Athabasca oil sands, does the minister intend to ensure the construction of this and other oil sands' projects through public participation or in conjunction with the provinces and any of the oil companies which are willing to participate? Does he intend to take any action to ensure that in 1982 or 1983 the forecast of the National Energy Board that oil will be forthcoming from the oil sands will in fact be realized?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** We have no policy specifically directed at federal investment in the oil sands. The provincial government of Alberta, which has full responsibility in this area, has been at no little pains to state that federal participation is not welcome.

OIL PIPELINE SARNIA-MONTREAL—RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS  
WITH COMPANY REGARDING CONSTRUCTION

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Last week the minister said discussions with Interprovincial Pipe Line regarding construction of a pipeline from Sarnia to Montreal had reached a stalemate and he was making certain recommendations to his cabinet colleagues. Has any decision been arrived at and, if not, can he tell us how soon an announcement will be made regarding this project? When is it contemplated that construction will begin?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** A decision has not yet been made. I

## Oral Questions

would hope that within a week one will have been reached.

SASKATCHEWAN COURT RULING ON OIL ROYALTIES—  
INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO APPEAL

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is on the same subject and is addressed to the Minister of Justice. It arises from the negative decision handed down by the Queen's Bench Court Bench in Saskatchewan on the claim of a plaintiff that high royalties imposed by a province interfered with the rights of the federal government in connection with interprovincial trade. Does the minister plan to appeal this decision or to help the plaintiff in this case—an oil company—to appeal to a higher court?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** It is anticipated that an appeal will go forward, and because of the importance of the constitutional issue involved, we would expect to intervene.

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Has the minister, or have any of his officials, made any contact with the oil company up to this point?

**Mr. Lang:** There may well have been discussions. I would have to check into these details and report to the hon. member.

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## MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REGIONAL MINISTERS'  
IMPACT ON PROJECTS PUT FORWARD BY MEMBERS OF  
PARLIAMENT

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to return to the LIP matter and ask the minister of manpower whether those members of parliament who set up advisory groups and tried to work with his department to get programs approved were told, as a matter of courtesy, that their representations would be subject to review, appraisal or veto—whatever word the minister likes to use—by a regional minister, whatever that term may mean?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** In the early 1972-73 programs there were no constituency advisory groups. There was an arrangement for consultation within communities which people selected, for the most part, by members of my department. This was good, as far as it went. But I established advisory groups in 1973 and have carried the system on, and members who decided to go along with it were given an opportunity to recommend appointments. So the position has changed considerably in the last two or three years.

● (1440)

**Mr. Fairweather:** Mr. Speaker, that is a very interesting answer to a question I did not ask. Were members of parliament informed of the review by regional ministers, or were they not?