

there are perhaps 50 or 60 members who are seeking to ask questions. There are only a few minutes left and obviously all of them cannot expect to have their questions answered during this 40-minute period.

Mr. Nesbitt: A brief supplementary. Since the Secretary of State, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and the Minister of Labour, together with other ministers, have already expressed views on this subject, would the Acting Prime Minister give priority to this problem as many students are very concerned about the future?

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TRANSPORT

PROPOSED MEETING ON FORMATION OF ONTARIO PASSENGER TRAIN NETWORK

Mr. Rud L. Whiting (Halton): I have a question for the Minister of Transport. According to press reports the Ontario Minister of Transport has proposed a meeting between officials of his department, the federal transport ministry, and executives of the railway companies operating in the province to discuss the formation of a network of passenger trains for Ontario. Did the minister receive an invitation to this meeting and, if so, will he or senior officials of his department attend, and will he use his good offices to urge the CNR to participate with an open mind?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's question is in the form of a submission to the minister. He has to assume it will be taken into account.

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NATIONAL PARKS

WOOD BUFFALO—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON CUTTING OF TIMBER

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In light of the fact that the National Parks Act prohibits the cutting of timber in a park save for dead and diseased timber for the protection of the forests in the park itself, has the minister taken note of the situation in Wood Buffalo Park and will he make a statement to this House shortly, when he gets the information, as to the number of timber licences which have been granted for operations there, the quantity of timber to be removed, and the extent to which the forest has already been stripped of timber as a result of the cutting which has gone on?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): It is true, Mr. Speaker, that timber is being cut in Wood Buffalo park. That is only in a very small portion of the park, and these operations

Inquiries of the Ministry

provide work for approximately 100 Indians from this area. Nevertheless, we are presently negotiating with the government of Alberta to establish new limits, as far as Wood Buffalo park is concerned, which would enable us to obtain in exchange the areas where dinosaurs are still to be found, in Alberta.

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[English]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

ARGENTIA, NFLD.—IMPLEMENTATION OF CRASH PROGRAM

Mr. Walter C. Carier (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport, and I might say it is prompted by my deep concern for the hon. minister's image in my riding. Would he undertake to speak to his colleague, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, to have the promise made by the Minister of Transport on July 6 last summer to the people of the Argentia area respecting the \$2 million crash program implemented because at the present time not even a quarter of that amount has been spent there?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I understand the hon. member for St. John's West is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Carier: This is a very important matter, Mr. Speaker, to the 30 per cent unemployed in that area, because last summer a crash program was announced but it has not been carried through. My question to the minister is, will he talk to his colleague to have this program implemented?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question was heard by the Chair and I feel it was in the form of a suggestion or a submission to the minister. The hon. member has to assume that it has been noted and will be taken into account.

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TRADE

DEVELOPMENT OF U.S. MARKETS FOR ATLANTIC PROVINCES' PRODUCTS

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In light of the great speech of the Prime Minister in Saint John, New Brunswick, before Christmas about the glowing prospects for trade with United States, and particularly the relationship of the Atlantic provinces thereto, can he now indicate what the plans of his department are for the new year, such as increased staff or trade missions and the like, which will bring this about?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that unless the minister is prepared to reply very briefly—

An hon. Member: He never is.