

#### LOCKHEED CONTRACT—POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING INFORMATION FROM UNITED STATES ON PAY-OFFS

**Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** The minister answered the question quite satisfactorily. Further on this subject, the *Wall Street Journal* of March 8 in a front page story said that:

● (1440)

Data on overseas payoffs by U.S. companies will be shared with foreign governments through the Justice Department, the State Department said.

Has the Canadian government availed itself of this opportunity to obtain information from that relatively open government concerning Lockheed payoffs?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the answer to that is no. I think that we have satisfied ourselves directly in conversations that the Lockheed Company, as I have explained before, made no payments or commissions to any Canadian. We have not concerned ourselves directly with their practices in other countries.

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#### ENERGY

##### INCREASED COST OF ELECTRICITY AND HEATING OIL IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Because some people are losing their homes in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island as a result of the rocketing of electric and oil generated heating costs and hundreds of thousands of others in those two provinces are in very difficult circumstances for the same reason, will the minister be presenting new initiatives to the next federal-provincial conference which deals with energy matters and if so, what sort of initiatives?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, at the last energy ministers' conference it was agreed that this particular item would be put on the agenda of a committee called IPACE, the Inter-provincial Advisory Committee on Energy. The purpose of this committee is to consider a number of proposals including a proposal that the representative of the province of Nova Scotia put forward at the energy ministers' conference.

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#### POST OFFICE

##### DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF LETTER CARRIER SERVICE FOR DALHOUSIE, NEW BRUNSWICK

**Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. In view of the plight of the 8,000 people in the town of Dalhousie regarding modern postal delivery service, I wonder if the minister could inform the House when this recommended letter carrier delivery service can be implemented?

#### Oral Questions

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Well, Mr. Speaker, the criteria for the introduction of new door to door letter service was improved upon, and made more difficult to be precise, last October when the government felt it should practice more restraint, particularly in the employment of postal workers. In view of the hon. gentleman's representation, however, I shall ask for a review of the number of people affected by the lack of service to see if it meets the new criteria.

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#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### PROTEST OF MR. BIBERSHTEIN AGAINST REFUSAL OF RUSSIA TO ALLOW HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER TO JOIN HIM—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On March 2, I asked the minister whether he would be willing to intercede if he received a request from Mr. Boris Bibershtein of Toronto who was undergoing a hunger strike to protest the refusal of the Russian government to allow his wife and eight year old daughter to join him in Canada. In light of the fact that the minister replied he would be prepared to assist if he received such a request and the fact that Mr. Bibershtein wrote him the next day to, in his words, "beg for his help" may I ask the minister whether his department has contacted the Russian authorities to indicate this government's interest in the case and if not, why not?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, we did receive a request and my officials have been in touch with the gentleman himself on this case. We are now considering what steps we can take to assist constructively. There is no question but that we will lend our services in the hope that we may be able to secure the admission to Canada of his wife and child.

**Mr. Beatty:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact that it is some 19 days since Mr. Bibershtein wrote to the Secretary of State for External Affairs to request his assistance in this very urgent case, why has the government taken so long to make a decision to even contact the Soviet authorities to indicate this government's interest in reuniting this family?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, we have not held off making any such decision.

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#### ENERGY

##### PROPOSED ENRICHED URANIUM PLANT IN JAMES BAY AREA—AVAILABILITY OF QUEBEC PREFEASIBILITY STUDY

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It is based on the fact that following the 1975 CANADIF study into an enriched uranium plant in the James Bay area, both the province of Quebec and the