

*Oral Questions***COMMUNICATIONS****APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND ADDITIONAL STAFF OF CRTC**

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. Recently we heard the acting chairman of the CRTC, and those of us who were present got the impression that his workload is very heavy. Can the minister tell us when he will appoint a chairman to the CRTC? This gentleman does have a tremendous workload, particularly due to the fact that the minister is more or less saddling him with new hearings on pay television which are not necessary because such hearings have already been held. When does the minister intend to give this man the staff which he needs in order to fulfil his functions?

Hon. David MacDonald (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the question is an important one. We have engaged in a rather wide-ranging process of consultation in order to ensure that, not only in the case of the new chairman to be appointed but in the case of the other two members to be appointed, we will have outstanding people to provide service to a rather important institution in regard to telecommunications policy for this country.

[Translation]

Please allow me, Mr. Speaker, to draw the attention of the House to the presence in your gallery of a woman of great importance to the cultural life of Canada, Mrs. Antonine Maillet, who recently was awarded the Prix Goncourt of France.

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[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES BEFORE EMBARKING UPON
POSSIBLE HARMFUL PROJECTS**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the congenial Minister of the Environment. It concerns two extremely important projects at either end of the country, namely, the proposed flooding of 12,000 acres of farmland by B.C. Hydro, and the proposal for putting a highway through the heart of the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia which will destroy some of the best farmland in that province.

Will the minister promise full-scale environmental impact studies before either of these projects goes ahead, and will he recommend to cabinet the possibility of cutting off fundings for Highway 101 in Nova Scotia unless an alternative route is found which will not destroy good farmland?

Hon. John A. Fraser (Postmaster General and Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the question of the flooding of land in the event that a dam is built in British Columbia, that is a matter which is, of course, fundamentally the responsibility of the province of British Columbia. I will be discussing the entire situation shortly with the new minister of

[Mr. Clark.]

the environment in the province of British Columbia. I was to meet with him on Friday of this week. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend, so that meeting will be rescheduled.

On the question of farmland and the highway, I will be discussing that matter with my officials and my colleagues and will be able to give the hon. member a more satisfactory answer at a later time.

Mr. Nystrom: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In May of last year, the former minister of the environment said that a federal land use policy would be announced shortly thereafter. I should like to ask the minister when we can expect that announcement, in view of the fact that we are losing thousands of acres of prime farmland every year. According to the government, we are not now capable of feeding our people in almost every foodstuff area except grain. When can we expect that important study?

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, the studies have been completed and the cabinet document on federal land use policy is being prepared and will be delivered to cabinet shortly. I must point out to the hon. member and other hon. members that the federal government does not have jurisdiction over any land in the country that comes within provincial jurisdiction or which is alienated into private ownership. As a consequence, the actual power of the federal government to control land use in the country is understandably limited.

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PRIVILEGE**MR. ETHIER—RECEIVABILITY OF QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE**

Mr. Speaker: On the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Ethier), the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) has just indicated to me that he would like to make his intervention on the matter on Monday. If that is convenient, then I will hear that matter on Monday, when I think I should be in a position to decide the matter finally. I have given it some consideration already and I would not anticipate that I would have to reserve it any longer than that.

I have a notice of a question of privilege from the hon. member for Essex-Windsor (Mr. Whelan).

**MR. WHELAN—NEW NATIONAL FOOD POLICY—REMARKS OF
PRIME MINISTER DURING QUESTION PERIOD**

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Essex-Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege, because yesterday in this House the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark), in answer to one of my questions, indicated to the people of Canada and the members of this House that there were documents missing from the files of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, these documents are readily available. They are in pretty nearly every member's office in Ottawa. They are