

## Starred Questions

NUCLEAR REACTOR STATION, WHITESHELL, MAN.

**Question No. 92—Mr. Argue:**

1. Will a nuclear reactor station be built at Whiteshell, Manitoba?
2. If so, will radioactive waste from the nuclear reactor station be deposited in lake Winnipeg or any of its tributaries, or in what other manner will it be disposed of?
3. What precautions will be taken to ensure no radioactive contamination of inhabited areas, the waters and the fish population of lake Winnipeg and its tributaries?
4. Has the government received a petition from the summer residents of the Whiteshell area protesting against the proposed establishment of a nuclear reactor station there?
5. If so, has the government replied to the petition, and what was the content of the reply?

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first question is yes, a nuclear reactor station will be built at Whiteshell, Manitoba.

In answer to the second part of the question, all the radioactive waste will be safely stored on the property of the Whiteshell research centre. This will be the same practice that is followed at Chalk River. Radioactive liquids are stored in stainless steel tanks and radioactive solids are stored in special vaults constructed of concrete treated with tar to prevent water moisture from seeping.

In answer to part 3, the same precautions will be taken as have been taken over the years at Chalk River. It is important to realize that the atomic energy control board has jurisdiction over all establishments of this nature, and exercises supervision and control so that no radioactive materials are permitted to endanger the population.

The answer to part 4 is yes.

The answer to part 5 is the same as I have given to these other questions.

## FREIGHT RATES—EXTENSION OF ROLLBACK DEADLINE

**Question No. 93—Mr. Robichaud:**

1. Has the Minister of Transport received a telegram from the maritime transportation commission requesting that the rollback of the last 17 per cent freight rate increase be extended beyond the present deadline of July 31?
2. If so: (a) on what date was such a telegram received? (b) on what date was it brought to the attention of the minister? (c) has a reply been made, and of what nature?

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** The answer to part 1 is yes.

As to part 2, the telegram was received in my office on March 8 and was brought to my attention on March 16, on which day it was acknowledged with an expression of regret for the delay and with the advice that the matter is now under consideration, and

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that a decision would be reached before the present reductions terminate.

## CHIGNECTO CANAL INVESTIGATION

**Question No. 94—Mr. McWilliam:**

1. Has an investigation been authorized in connection with the construction of the Chignecto canal?
2. If so, when, and by whom is it being conducted?
3. Have any estimates of the cost of a Chignecto canal project been made since June 1, 1957?
4. If so, what is the amount of the estimate?
5. Have any economic studies been made on the feasibility of the construction and operation of a Chignecto canal since June 1, 1957?
6. If so, what is the result of such studies?

**Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport):** The answer to part 1 is that no outside organizations have been employed specially for this purpose, but both economic and technical aspects have been studied by existing governmental agencies from time to time and are kept under continuing review.

Part 2 is answered by the answer to part 1.

The answer to part 3 is yes.

As to part 4, an estimate prepared by the Department of Public Works in 1958 set the cost at above \$138 million. An estimate prepared by a private engineering firm within the last year suggested a cost of about \$90 million, but subsequent review has indicated that government agencies concerned would find it difficult to accept technical assumptions made therein.

With regard to parts 5 and 6, various economic studies have been made from time to time, as indicated above, and the matter remains under continuing review, but I am not in a position to comment further on their results at the present time.

## PRESS SECRETARY'S POSITION, FINANCE MINISTER'S OFFICE

**Question No. 95—Mr. Godin:**

1. Is there a position in the office of the Minister of Finance for a press secretary or public relations officer or some similar official?
2. If so, what is the precise designation of the position?
3. Has any such position been occupied since June 21, 1957, and, if so, for what period?
4. Was such officer paid a salary from public funds and, if so, under what precise authority?

**Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance):** The answer to part 1 is yes.

The answer to part 2 is, special assistant to the Minister of Finance.

The answer to part 3 is since September 1, 1958.

The answer to part 4 is yes, under authority of P.C. 1958-14/1200 of August 28, 1958.