

*Oral Questions***THE ROYAL FAMILY****INVITATIONS TO HER MAJESTY AND PRINCE CHARLES TO VISIT NEWFOUNDLAND—REASON FOR FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO APPROVE**

**Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. The government of Newfoundland, through the government of Canada, invited Her Majesty the Queen to visit Newfoundland during the jubilee year of her succession to the Throne but apparently the government of Canada did not recommend to her that she visit Newfoundland. Would the right hon. gentlemen tell the House the reason for taking that position, particularly in view of the fact that Her Majesty visited Nova Scotia, Ontario and New Brunswick last year in connection with the Olympics?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I dealt with this matter in the House last week. Perhaps the hon. member will check *Hansard* and find the answer to his question.

**Mr. Crosbie:** The government of Newfoundland also invited His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, to visit Newfoundland during the Canada Summer Games in 1977. That invitation also was not approved by the government of Canada. Can the right hon. gentleman tell us the reason for that decision? Is there something against royalty visiting the province of Newfoundland?

**Mr. Trudeau:** It is my understanding that the Prince of Wales will be visiting the western provinces in the current year. I will check the details. But I would be very surprised if he would not have as much pleasure going to Newfoundland. I suppose he does not have time to do both.

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**RESOURCES****PLANS FOR OPENING NEW COAL MINES IN NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK**

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, my question is intended for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Can he advise us whether any joint federal provincial initiatives are currently being undertaken to encourage new coal mining ventures in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia? I ask this because of the very high unemployment rate in these provinces and the need for alternative sources of energy to which attention has been directed so often by the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys.

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the program we announced for Nova Scotia, the arrangements for home insulation and oil substitution, would fit into that category. Provision is made there for the conversion of oil fired generating plants to coal-firing, presumably using Nova Scotia coal.

[Mr. Fox.]

**Mr. MacKay:** Perhaps I did not make myself clear. I wanted to ask the minister whether there are any definite programs being undertaken to encourage the opening of new coal mines in that region.

**Mr. Gillespie:** There is a possibility of another strip mining coal property being developed in Nova Scotia and I am talking to the premier about it. It was his hope that this project might qualify under the program announced some time ago and I think there is a good chance it may. It is possible, though, that some environmental questions will have to be settled first.

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**ENERGY****ASSISTANCE TO NEWFOUNDLAND IN DEVELOPMENT OF LOWER CHURCHILL HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** A supplementary question. Is the minister prepared to reconsider upward the offer made to Newfoundland in connection with the development of the Lower Churchill in the light of the inflation which has taken place since the offer was originally made? Is the minister now prepared to tell the House whether the government has taken any decision with regard to the exercise of the powers it possesses under the BNA Act with respect to the building of transmission lines so as to enable Churchill Falls or Labrador power to get into the Ontario grid?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** I stated in the House a short while ago that I had been in touch with the premier of Newfoundland and that I had raised the question of his interest in pursuing the Gull Island site—not just the transmission aspect but the generating facility itself. He responded in a positive way and our officials are at the present time updating the engineering and cost data with a view to working out an arrangement whereby this very considerable resource might be made available for the benefit of the people of Newfoundland, the Maritime provinces and, indeed, Canada generally.

**Mr. McGrath:** Given the serious unemployment situation in the province, coupled with the urgent need for energy, is the minister, on behalf of the government, prepared to expedite consideration of this matter, and will he look upon it as constituting a make-work project of considerable importance in the immediate future?

**Mr. Gillespie:** I cannot go any faster than I am right now. I am waiting for the premier.

**POSSIBILITY OF FEDERAL PARTICIPATION IN MARITIME ENERGY CORPORATION**

**Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury):** A further supplementary to the minister of energy. Has the federal government reached a decision whether or not to take an equity position in the Maritime Energy Corporation?