

Inquiries of the Ministry

tary of State and refers to the submission made by the Secretary of State before the Davey committee on the mass media last Friday. In view of the minister's statement that officials of his department are working on guidelines for the control of the mass media, do the minister and the government intend to await the recommendations of the Davey committee before defining those guidelines?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I think that the phrase "control of the mass media", which perhaps goes beyond what the hon. member has in mind, and it certainly does in my case, does not appear in my testimony before the Davey committee.

The question of information monopolies, because that is what we are talking about, I presume, has, as a matter of fact, been under study in my department for many months. I told the Davey committee that the work was far from over as this is a very complex question, both in fact and in law, and that guidelines would certainly not be given to the CRTC tomorrow. That means that, most likely, the Davey committee will publish its report before any guidelines are given to the CRTC.

[English]

Mr. Nowlan: A supplementary question. Does the work that is now being done by officials in the minister's department include and extend to attempting to define Canadian content for the press, the written media, so that the national press can foster and promote national unity in accordance with certain guidelines laid down by the government?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: No, Mr. Speaker. I think that the hon. member has an entirely wrong concept of the work and, above all, of this question. The point is to know what constitutes an information or broadcasting monopoly. It does not mean at all trying to direct the press or the broadcasting system of this country, particularly not as regards the views that they may express freely.

[English]

POLLUTION**CHEDABUCTO BAY—PAYMENT OF
COMPENSATION**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Justice. In light of the

[Mr. Nowlan.]

activity taking place in connection with the \$1,300,000 pool set up by charter parties to clean up oil spills, can the minister indicate when those individuals who were affected by the oil spill in Chedabucto Bay might receive some procedural directions as to their recourse?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, any announcement about this serious matter would be made by my colleague the Minister of Transport.

Mr. Forrestall: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister give some indication as to time? Time is going by and the initial fund is being depleted and used up for other reasons.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I think the timing will depend on the Minister of Transport. I really cannot add anything to what I have said.

HEALTH AND WELFARE**INCLUSION OF DENTAL CARE IN MEDICARE
LEGISLATION**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of figures issued a few days ago by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics which show that fewer than 42 of every 100 Canadians receive dental attention in any one year, can the minister say whether the government is giving consideration to including dental care in the medicare legislation?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, it is not one of the areas of prime concern at the moment.

TRANSPORT**DECREASE IN CNR SYDNEY-ARGENTIA
FERRY SERVICE**

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Transport in the absence of the Minister of Transport. Can the minister say whether he has received protests from the town and community councils of the Placentia East area of Newfoundland against the decision of Canadian National to decrease ferry service on the Sydney-Argentia run, with the possibility of discontinuing the service altogether?