

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, although in most matters I answer in this House for the Canadian Transport Commission, this is a matter which comes within the purview of my colleague the Minister of Communications.

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HARBOURS**PICTOU, NOVA SCOTIA—IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS FOR IMPROVED FACILITIES**

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. While at the same time expressing my appreciation for the work which is being done to improve the ferry facilities at Caribou, Nova Scotia, could the minister tell us whether there is any chance of implementing the third phase of the long arranged and awaited port improvements for the town of Pictou, in view of the widespread dissatisfaction being expressed by the Board of Trade and local industry?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will be glad to send the hon. member a copy of the latest report. I was down to take a look personally at the situation recently. There are some plans for improving it, but I think there are some differences of opinion at the local level as to what should be done.

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POLLUTION**PULP AND PAPER MILLS—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN COST OF INSTALLING CONTROLS**

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of the Environment. In view of the fact there are marginally profitable pulp and paper mills in regions possessing little alternative employment, would he advise if the government will contribute to the cost of additional pollution controls incurred under the terms of the pulp and paper effluent regulations when production processes are modified or improved?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, provisions for assistance for existing plants is being discussed. I might add that under the present income tax regulations it is possible to get a two-year write-off of new investments of this kind.

BOWATER—REQUEST FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR COMPANY IN VIEW OF HIGH COST OF INSTALLING CONTROLS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the President of Bowater Pulp and Paper Mills at Corner Brook has indicated that it will cost \$11 million to introduce the anti-pollution measures, would the minister investigate this allegation in order to help this company avoid a situation which could cripple completely the economy of that city?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I would be surprised if the investment required would add up to one-tenth of that amount.

PULP AND PAPER EFFLUENT REGULATIONS—INQUIRY AS TO EFFECTIVE DATE

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of the Environment. Since the pulp and paper effluent regulations do not now apply to any mill in Canada, would the minister be able to set out some timetable of expectations when, as a result of negotiations or desire on the part of his department, those regulations will come into effect with respect to all the mills that now exist?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, those regulations apply now to any mill under construction or any mill built in the future. They will apply on a negotiated basis, often through the provinces, to existing mills as well.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I am quite aware that what the minister just said is contained within the regulations. I asked, since the regulations do not apply to any existing mill, and their application is going to be negotiated with each mill, can he set out any expected timetable as to when they will be applicable?

Mr. Davis: As I said before, Mr. Speaker, they do apply now to mills which are under construction. For existing mills the timetable will be set by negotiation mill by mill, having regard to the economic circumstances of the firm and the community in question.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): As a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, since the minister is completely evading the issue, would he be prepared to refer this subject matter to the Committee on Environmental Pollution?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION TO EXTEND CANADIAN CONTROL BEYOND TERRITORIAL SEA LIMITS

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, my question is related to the broader issue of pollution of the seas. In view of his statements yesterday can the minister say whether he plans to introduce any legislation to extend Canada's pollution control authority beyond the territorial sea limits set out in existing legislation?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

INQUIRY AS TO AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE CONCERNING CONTROL OF OIL EMISSION INTO THE SEA

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. In connection with the proposed regulations under Bill C-2, which are now presumably in the drafting stage, can the minister tell the House whether agreement has been reached with the government of France with respect to the implementation of the provi-