

Oral Questions

pany has taken the place of a Canadian company, and these porters are naturally deeply concerned that a month from now, their notice having been received today, they will be out of work.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will be very glad to look into the matter.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

DATE OF REPORT OF DR. HALL ON PENSIONS OF RAILWAYMEN

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Can the minister indicate whether we might soon see the report of Dr. Noel Hall concerning all aspects of railway pensions?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am as eager as the hon. member to find out the results, which I hope will be very soon.

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[Translation]

ENERGY

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON PROGRESS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF ENRICHED URANIUM PLANT IN QUEBEC

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

I would like to know about the progress of the talks with the province of Quebec on the establishment of the enriched uranium plant. Has Quebec given up this file or its responsibilities to the government, or has the minister recently met with the minister responsible in Quebec to reach a conclusion?

[English]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of conversations between officials of my department and Quebec government officials. I think the arrangement which has been worked out is that the Quebec government will proceed with its own particular feasibility or pre-feasibility study. For our part we will be undertaking a particular study dealing with economics and other factors which come into play for that major proposed project.

[Translation]

Mr. La Salle: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question.

Last week, Mr. Villeneuve, Hydro Quebec's representative and director of transportation, said before Mr. Farmer, a spokesman for the National Energy Board of the federal government, that Ottawa could force Hydro Quebec to sell its power. He also said that a request made fifteen months ago by Hydro Quebec is still pending before the National Energy Board. Can the minister tell the House if Ottawa proposes to force Quebec to increase its rates? Also, can he say whether Quebec will soon get an answer?

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

[English]

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, we are not interested in forcing anyone to do anything.

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OLYMPIC GAMES

PROPOSED INVESTIGATION OF CONTRACT PROCEDURES AND COSTS

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to an earlier question asked of the Prime Minister about the Olympics. I was pleased to note, from the Prime Minister's answers to earlier questions, his interest in the Olympics now, which seems to be in contrast with the time he emphatically stated that the federal government would not pay one cent toward the games.

In view of the many difficulties and irregularities in the letting of contracts, security and other problems as well as the continual increase in the cost, which is expected now to reach \$1 billion, notwithstanding over \$200 million in direct grants by the federal government, would the Prime Minister be prepared to have the government initiate a detailed investigation into the letting of contracts, rising costs and all of the other problems in order to try to at least curb this runaway situation, and could he make a report available to the House?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sure it was not intentional, but the hon. member just misled the House by saying that I had said the government would not pay a single cent. As a matter of fact, in my initial statement in parliament when I responded to the request of Mayor Drapeau and COJO, I made it quite clear that we would not pick up deficits, and so on, but that we would pay certain costs which result from federal participation. I mentioned specifically CBC, police, army, diplomatic services and so on, so the hon. member should not try to convey the impression that I am changing our position. It is the same position it was initially.

If the hon. member is suggesting that we step in to try to control and be prepared to pay part of the deficit, I am sure there are many Canadians who would support him, but I wish he would make his position clear.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jelinek: Before I come to my supplementary I should like to clarify my suggestion. I was not trying to mislead the House, but I was under the impression that before the original Olympic bill came before the House the Prime Minister was quoted as saying that.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jelinek: My supplementary is actually the same question. Because of all the problems Montreal and COJO are experiencing, I ask the Prime Minister whether he would be prepared to initiate an investigation in order to help them out and in order to curb the runaway problems which Montreal and COJO are experiencing.