

occurred, VIA Rail was placing a \$100 million order for ten trains at double the price at which the Government has been asked to take these trains back? Why have they been sitting around there rusting and totally unused?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, we tried to sell those trains to other railroads around the world. We tried to sell those trains to other rail lines in North America. We have had discussions with VIA Rail and those negotiations are still ongoing. However, with respect to the information from the Hon. Member, I just want to remind him, while I have the chance, about Pratt & Whitney—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Lumley:**—the cost per job is \$2,500, not \$100,000. He should get his information straight.

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## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### RESTRUCTURING OF DEPARTMENT

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of State for Science and Technology. The Minister's Department has been cut in half, reduced to a head without a body. The Minister has stated that this change is for the better, because the head will have direct access to Cabinet. That remains to be seen. As the Minister knows, Cabinet proceedings are secret. Therefore, can he assure this House that the shake-up at MOSST is not just the way to put government policy on science and technology behind closed doors, in secret, and away from the scrutiny of an informed public?

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, there is no shake-up at MOSST. MOSST was restructured to make it more effective in its new role as chief science adviser to the Government, with direct access to Cabinet Ministers, to Cabinet Committees, and to the Prime Minister's Office. This is very much in keeping, I would think, with what we have seen happen in the United States. The role has been made clear. The lines of responsibility, I believe, are now well established. Dr. Berlinguet has assumed his post. I would judge, contrary to what the Hon. Member feels, that this is indeed a major improvement in terms of moving forward with the science and technology policy which I announced in the House last May.

## Oral Questions

● (1450)

### CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

#### EXTENSION OF SERVICE TO NORTHERN NEW BRUNSWICK

**Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications. It concerns the subject of CBC radio which has long been awaited by Canadians living in northern New Brunswick, with respect to facilities that are in place to bring the new signal of CBC English programming to that part of Canada. Could the Minister indicate when the people living in that part of Canada will be able to enjoy this broadcasting on a daily basis?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to answer the Hon. Member. This is a question that has been on his mind for some time now. I know that he has brought pressure to bear on CBC to encourage development of this additional coverage.

I am delighted to say that today I have been informed by the Executive Vice-President of the CBC that the CBC English AM service will, as of today, be available on a daily basis on the FM network to the citizens in northern New Brunswick he has mentioned.

I would also like to add, for the Hon. Member's information, that as far as French language television is concerned in that area, CBC coverage in the French language is going out on a test pattern basis at the moment. If those test patterns can indeed be received, as we expect they will be, the French language television service of the CBC will be available on an official basis as soon as these tests have been completed.

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## METRIC CONVERSION

### ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS—APPLICATION CANADA-WIDE

**Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and it is supplementary to the questions raised earlier by the Member for Peterborough on the metric decision handed down yesterday by an Ontario court, and the Prime Minister's reference to the Charter of Rights.

Implicit in the answer given in the House today by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs was that, until the Government decides what to do, the enforcement of the regulations is now going to be stopped, but only in Ontario. Surely a basic tenet of any decision on any citizen's right, whether it is included in the Charter or not, is that all Canadians from coast to coast should be treated exactly the same under federal law. The answer of the Minister is clearly discriminatory. Will the Prime Minister now indicate if metric enforcement will cease right across the country?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Hon. Member is making a representation