

*Oral Questions*

go on in that or any other Cabinet committee. If he is interested in the process, with respect to the making of tax rulings, there is a Minister responsible for that in the House to whom he can direct his questions.

## ROLE OF ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Minister of Finance who probably is the only one of the two who might know the answer. Did David Wyman, the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for tax policy, bring to his attention that there was a request for a pre-tax ruling regarding the Gulf-O&Y-PetroCan transaction?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is aware, as my colleague, the Minister of National Revenue, has mentioned, that I cannot, and neither can he nor any member of the Government, discuss any particular tax ruling.

**Mr. Deans:** I am asking if you were told.

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** That is a matter which must be dealt with between the taxpayer and the Department of National Revenue.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

## PROPOSED PRAIRIE AND NORTHERN RIVER RESEARCH CENTRE

**Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment and concerns the recently released report of the inquiry on federal water policy. The report recommends that the National Hydrology Institute, currently in the final stages of construction in Saskatoon, become a Prairie and Northern River Research Centre. Could the Minister assure the House that this recommendation will be given serious consideration to ensure adequate provision for agricultural and fresh water research in western Canada?

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, Dr. Pearse and his fellow commissioners made a very strong case for the centre of excellence to which the Hon. Member referred. I am looking at the recommendation with considerable sympathy. For that purpose, and others, I have established an inter-departmental task force to look at the report in its total context. In that connection I will be reviewing the recommendation to which the Hon. Member has made reference.

[Translation]

## TRANSPORT

## NEED TO ESTABLISH "BUY CANADIAN" POLICY

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport.

Is the Minister aware that 130 workers in the CSW iron-works, in the East End of Montreal, have been laid off over the last few days? Moreover, does he realize that such layoffs will go on as long as his Government has no "Buy Canadian" policy in the transportation industry?

**Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of State (Transport)):** Mr. Speaker, I met with the president of the union very recently, last week that is, and we are looking at the situation very closely. Indeed, the company over the last few years has been significantly reducing its labour force, but there is still hope for the coming months, and we are looking at all company orders to see whether in fact there is substitution from Canadian production in Montreal to production abroad, namely in Australia, as has indeed been said.

## PURCHASE OF ROLLING STOCK WHEELS IN CANADA

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the fact that the Minister has finally accepted to meet those workers, who had been asking for a meeting for well over three months.

Will the Minister contact the Canadian railways to ensure that they buy rolling stock wheels made in Canada rather than in Brazil?

**Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of State (Transport)):** Mr. Speaker, that matter also was examined with the union president, and I must state I myself did not wait three months before meeting him. I met him immediately, that is during the week he came to my constituency office.

As far as Brazilian-made wheels are concerned, this is an item I am examining, to find out exactly how pertinent that matter could be.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Broadview-Greenwood, one question, with respect.

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## SOCIAL SECURITY

## CHILD TAX CREDIT

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It concerns his contention in the House yesterday that the child tax credit is not going to be deindexed. Has the Minister had a chance to look at the Budget papers where it