

*Oral Questions***REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION****METROPOLITAN AREA GROWTH INVESTMENTS LIMITED—
DATE WHEN AGENCY WILL BECOME OPERATIONAL**

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. I would like to ask again whether he has any new developments to report on the progress of Metropolitan Area Growth Investments Limited which, as the minister knows, is becoming, after three years of non-operation, rather a symbol of ridicule and an object of wrangling between the government of Nova Scotia and the federal government. Has he set any deadline? Has he any progress to report in regard to when this important corporation, funded by the taxpayers of Canada to the tune of \$20 million, will finally become operational?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give a specific date, but I can report progress to the hon. member. He may have seen a news item to the effect that the board is in fact constituted. If it has not finished drawing up the terms of reference for a chief executive officer, it is in the process of doing so.

I have additional information for the Leader of the Opposition. I met with the two Nova Scotian representatives appointed by the federal government in the past few days. I hope to meet with the full board in the future. I can only say that the frustration of the hon. member is only exceeded by my own, and the faster we can get it off the ground the better.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE**STEPS TO ENSURE NO WASTE IN NATO EXPENDITURES—
POSSIBILITY OF REDUCTION IN CANADIAN COMMITMENT**

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of National Defence concerning NATO. In light of Mr. Callaghan's report to the United States state department that the total cost to NATO for duplication of research and equipment has been over \$20 billion, would the minister please explain what steps he has taken to ensure that in so far as Canada is concerned such waste will no longer be acceptable or accepted?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I indicated in Brussels last week at the NATO meeting that Canada was prepared to continue its contribution to NATO at the present level.

Mr. McKinnon: I am a little baffled by the minister's answer, but I will leave it.

Further with regard to NATO, Dr. Schlesinger in Europe last week sought assurances that the NATO countries would not cut their forces in Europe. Did the minister give Dr. Schlesinger such assurance that Canada will not cut its number of troops in Europe?

[Mr. Mazankowski.]

Mr. Richardson: We were not asked to confirm the size of our force in numbers. We indicated that we would keep Canada's contribution at its present level.

An hon. Member: Until the next review.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**REASON FOR INQUIRY INTO ACTIVITIES OF SEAFARERS
INTERNATIONAL UNION UNDER LABOUR CODE—REQUEST FOR
PUBLICATION OF REPORT**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Now that we know that the reference to section 196 of the Labour Code by the minister is primarily a red herring in that we do not have an inquiry or a probe, nor do we have an industrial inquiry commission, but rather a continuation of the investigation done by the RCMP and officials of the minister's department, why was this matter directed to the Minister of Labour for further pursuit, thereby deceiving—and I say this respectfully—the Canadian people, rather than placing the matter before the Solicitor General?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): I appreciate that the hon. member can use strong language in a very quiet way and therefore have it escape some of the attention it would otherwise receive. Notwithstanding that provocation, let me say to him that this is anything but a red herring. It is exactly the traditional Canadian way of examining whether there is any wrongdoing, namely, to have an investigation which does not attempt to launder matters in public with all kinds of at-large hearsay allegations. This is the proper way of proceeding when there is a matter for investigation.

This matter is divided into two essential parts. One has to do with the part which may involve the Criminal Code of Canada, and any time those matters are involved, it is for provincial attorneys general to take charge. When matters involve the Canada Labour Code, whether in regard to offences or to the determination of what changes are needed, this is obviously the responsibility of the Minister of Labour, and it is a responsibility he has properly exercised.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Alexander: Now that the minister has attempted to answer my question and has not, can he advise me whether the report will be published after the investigation has been completed?

Mr. Lang: This very much depends on the nature of the report and the kind of report which can be published.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lang: I am very surprised if the hon. member's colleague from Calgary North does not appreciate the fact that if a report contains certain charges allegations without foundation which could lead to a charge, that is not the kind of thing which in our system ought to be pub-