

brought to my attention a few hours ago that 35 employees of the Parks Canada regional office in Cornwall—

Some hon. Members: Question!

Mr. Domm: Madam Speaker, in the interests of the civil servants concerned, I hope hon. members opposite will listen to this. Thirty-five employees of the Parks Canada regional office in Cornwall have either asked for transfer or given notice of their intended resignation as a result of the cancellation of the Parks Canada move to Peterborough, there is also a mass grievance presently before the Civil Service Alliance as a result of that cancellation and, in addition, there are signed petitions.

I ask the Minister of the Environment to tell us what he intends to do. In the light of what is taking place, does he intend to reconsider his cancellation of the Parks Canada move to Peterborough from Cornwall?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Patronage.

Madam Speaker: Order. I think that if the hon. member started to talk, he would get silence.

Mr. Roberts: No, Madam Speaker.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

TORONTO HARBOUR COMMISSION—DREDGING OF KEATING CHANNEL

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): Madam Speaker, my question also is directed to the Minister of the Environment. I am sure the minister is aware that the Toronto Harbour Commission has begun dredging activities in the Keating channel with funds partially provided by the federal government. According to officials, some of the highly contaminated toxic waste may affect the Toronto water supply.

Given the serious reservations felt by both federal and provincial officials, and the doubts expressed by the minister's own officials as to whether flood control is a realistic reason for proceeding, would the minister tell us why no attempt has been made to begin EARP hearings over the past five years?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): As the hon. member has explained, we are opposed to the development and we have expressed that view very strongly. As I understand the situation, the determining factor here is with the municipality or the land use responsibility of the municipality.

As far as the EARP process is concerned, I would have to check and give the hon. member a reply. But we share the

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concern he has expressed and we have communicated that concern to the people responsible.

Mr. Fulton: The minister has just told us that his department is opposed to this project. Is he indicating to the House and to the people of Toronto that federal funds will be withheld from this project?

Mr. Roberts: I am not ready to make such a commitment at this point. At the present time we are examining the kind of approach we should take to the decision which has been reached.

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TRANSPORT

SEAWORTHINESS OF CN FERRY "WILLIAM CARSON"

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Yesterday, the Supreme Court of Newfoundland indicated in a judgment that the Canadian National ferry *William Carson* was unseaworthy. This is the ferry which sank in 1977 and was the subject of an investigation sponsored by the Ministry of Transport which found that the vessel was seaworthy.

In view of yesterday's finding by the Supreme Court which cast serious doubt on the inspection capability of the minister's department and which, indeed, placed the minister's department in a situation of conflict of interest in this respect, I would ask the minister whether he is prepared to order an independent inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the sailing of the CN ferry *William Carson* in 1977 before she sunk off the coast of Labrador.

● (1500)

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, the decision came out only yesterday, and I think the cautious thing for me to do would be to inform myself of the decision and to read the decision before commenting on it further.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

MEMBERS ASKED TO ADVISE MINISTER ON PROGRAMS—CONSTITUTIONALITY THEREOF

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It deals with asking members of Parliament to advise the minister on the various programs the minister has. The letter he wrote to me says:

—I am now inviting you to participate by indicating your support or non-support of all eligible proposals within these streams.

This is a very disturbing type of invitation to a member of Parliament, in view of our knowledge of what responsible