

merce, I will direct my question to the acting minister. In view of the fact that Canada is not participating to the extent it should in the automotive industry and in particular is not getting its fair share of auto parts production, will the minister, in addition to his talks with the auto makers, seriously consider accepting the proposal of the Auto Parts Association of Canada for a \$250 million fund of fully repayable loans to help modernize and expand auto parts capacity in Canada and to begin creating the 25,000 jobs that represent the unemployment impact of the unfair share of auto parts production in Canada? Also, will he consider a special automotive parts industry program within the Enterprise Development Program in his department?

[Translation]

Mr. Bernard Loiselle (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I do not think anyone could say so categorically that Canada does not get its fair share in the auto pact, but I can assure the hon. member that our whole participation and all our agreements on the subject are currently under review and that the minister will make a specific statement on the subject in the near future.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Halifax.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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● (1142)

ENERGY

PROPOSED MARITIME ENERGY CORPORATION—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Halifax): I thank members of the House. I should like to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources how he is getting along in connection with the proposed maritime energy corporation as time passes. I notice that the maritime premiers intend to ask the minister what part the federal government will play in this concept. Will the minister bring us up to date?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I discussed this matter as recently as last evening with two very important members of the Nova Scotia government. I have taken part in other discussions with the premier of New Brunswick and I can say with some confidence that we are making substantial progress toward the formation of a maritime energy corporation. There are still some items which need to be settled and which are being discussed among the premiers themselves and between the government of Canada and the provincial premiers, but I am encouraged by the progress we are making and hope it will be possible to make a substantive announcement before the end of this year with respect to the creation of this corporation and its funding.

Oral Questions

LOWER CHURCHILL POWER PROJECT—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Halifax): I would hope so too, Mr. Speaker, because I am sure the minister will agree with me that there have been long discussions but little in the way of concrete development.

May I ask the minister how he is getting along with respect to developments on the Lower Churchill? I understand he was seeking certain information from the government of Newfoundland, information which I believe has now been made available. Can the minister tell us when some announcement in this regard might be forthcoming?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Again, I hope it will be possible to make an announcement with respect to this very substantial project in the near future. Discussions with the Newfoundland government are not yet completed. Additional discussions will take place very shortly with respect to a number of matters, including one of the items which was raised by a member during the question period today with respect to the Gull Island site. I should point out, though, that such an announcement might be hindered by the fact that the Province of Newfoundland and the Province of Quebec are themselves engaged in discussions in connection with the development of certain hydro resources in Labrador. Those discussions could complicate a federal-provincial understanding with respect to the Gull Island project or its priority as far as Newfoundland is concerned.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

EXEMPTION OF INDIAN BANDS FROM FEDERAL TAXES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. John Fraser (Vancouver South): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Some time ago the hon. gentleman's predecessor announced that no changes would be made in the application of tax laws to Indian bands in the sense that at the present time the bands are exempted on the same basis as Canadian municipalities. The hon. lady went on to say, however, that the department felt that this exemption should not continue but that no change would be made in the absence of consultation with the Indian bands affected. May I ask the minister whether any such consultation has been taking place and if not, why not?

Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Minister of National Revenue): I would be very pleased to consult with the bands. I believe representations have been made to that end and I will gladly accept them, if and when they would like to meet with me.

Mr. Fraser: I thank the minister for that undertaking and I can assure him that a meeting can be arranged very shortly. Since this is a vital matter which affects the planning of industrial and commercial developments on the part of these Indian bands, may I ask the minister what arrangements for