

eventually lead to the joining of our two continents by a causeway across Bering Strait in order that North America can join its railway and highway systems to those of the Soviet Union?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think this is another of the questions that might be put on the order paper.

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HEALTH

SHORTAGE OF CANADIAN TRAINED MEDICAL DOCTORS AND PERSONNEL—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. On October 6, in reply to a question, the minister told the House that he had been in consultation with the Association of Medical Colleges and the Canadian Medical Association concerning the shortage of Canadian trained medical doctors and medical personnel. Is the minister prepared to make a statement to the House in the very near future outlining his proposals to combat the shortage of doctors and Canadian trained medical personnel?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is aware of the various measures we have already implemented to deal with this shortage. We have the health resources fund of \$500 million which is being gradually used up over the years in conjunction with the provinces for the building of many new medical schools, some of which are now under way and some of which have been completed. We are also meeting with the various health associations in order to develop paramedical personnel who will relieve our medical manpower to a very great extent.

Mr. Rynard: Is the minister prepared to act on the suggestion of the Canadian Medical Association and build more Canadian medical schools for Canadian medical students?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, the health resources fund is there. It is being utilized to a very great extent by the provinces now in getting new medical schools under way. I expect that it will continue to be used by the provinces to expand this type of endeavour.

Mr. Rynard: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have almost reached the end of the question period. There are only a few minutes left. I wonder if we might recognize two or three other hon. members before the end of the question period and limit supplementaries.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION BY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY IN NOT HIRING ESKIMOS

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and

Inquiries of the Ministry

Northern Development. In view of the recent protest by a spokesman for the Eskimo people of Igloodik in the eastern Arctic that a construction company was showing discrimination in its hiring practices against the Eskimo people in the area, has his department investigated this complaint and, if so, with what results?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we are now investigating. The Northwest Territories commissioner, some officials, and the member for the Northwest Territories are to meet with representatives of the company in Edmonton on Friday to discuss this matter, and we hope that all errors will be rectified by next week.

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[English]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

POSSIBLE DOWNGRADING OF FREIGHT SERVICE BETWEEN STRATFORD AND SARNIA

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, on September 22 I directed a question to the Minister of Transport concerning the possible deterioration of service and possible lay-off of CNR employees in the Stratford-Sarnia area. He said at that time he would be glad to take notice of the question and get an answer for me at a later date. Four weeks have gone by, and I understand that the timetables are to be changed at the end of October. May I have an answer soon?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I did in fact send a letter of reply to some of the affected employees in the region and I ought to have sent a copy directly to the hon. member. I will see that he gets it today.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

INQUIRY AS TO SIGNING OF AGREEMENT WITH NOVA SCOTIA—PROVISION OF CROWN CORPORATION TO OVERSEE PROGRAMS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. The other day he undertook to reply to a question respecting the signing of an agreement with the province of Nova Scotia. I wonder whether, in replying to that question, he could undertake to say if it is now the policy of the government to create in Nova Scotia, particularly in the special areas, a Crown corporation or secretariat which would oversee the implementation of programs developed under DREE?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we are discussing with the government of Nova Scotia all possible means of fostering economic growth in that province. We are also considering the possibility of establishing a Crown corporation. If, as will probably be the case, we come to an agreement