ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DUMPING OF RAW SEWAGE INTO OTTAWA RIVER FROM NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IN HULL

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister in view of the fact that the Minister of the Environment is not present today and there has been no notification of an acting minister. In view of the fact raw sewage is being dumped directly into the Ottawa River from the new headquarters of the Department of the Environment in the Fontaine building in Hull, when does the government expect the sewage system in the new building will be in operation and this direct pollution of the Ottawa River will cease?

Mr. William Rompkey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take that question as notice and bring it to the attention of the minister.

POWER

STEPS TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL GRID—RE-EXAMINATION OF REPORT ON FUNDY TIDES

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Is it the intention of his department to initiate new moves to try to secure a national agreement on the development of a national power grid as well as bring about a conclusion to the re-examination of the programming board report on Fundy tidal power?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, in the last several months we have already made offers, particularly in the Atlantic provinces, to achieve closer co-ordination of power facilities there. It was helpful to find out that with the proposals in Ontario there may be some prospect that their very large semi-autonomous facility will be co-operating in national policies.

With regard to Fundy tidal power, I should like to tell the hon. member that we have not had the report of the programming board which is at the moment considering the matter.

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ENERGY

PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT WITH MARITIME PROVINCES ON ALLOCATION OF POSSIBLE OIL ROYALTIES FROM OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the confusion that reigns in Altantic Canada at present over the lack of policy with respect to the allocation of possible royalties from offshore development, and the fact that this indecision could well lead to a delay in developing our oil potential, will the minister

Oral Questions

indicate to the House whether any possible agreement has been reached with the four provincial premiers concerned with regard to this thorny problem?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, actually the five easternmost provinces are involved. No agreement has been reached at the moment, although I share the optimism of at least one of the provincial premiers that by the end of the summer there may be an agreement. We have had extensive discussions at the official level, and I think it is fair to say that there is some difference of position in the case of at least one provincial premier, but we hope to bring him around.

• (1140)

AGRICULTURE

REPORTED OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN AUSTRIA—EFFECT ON CURRENT CATTLE IMPORTS

Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture. With respect to the report of a recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease in northwestern Europe, specifically in Austria, can the minister confirm the accuracy of this report and will he comment on the implications of this cattle disease outbreak with respect to current Canadian import permits about to be announced this month?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is irregular to ask a minister to confirm a report. However, we might assume that the question has been asked directly in order to give the minister an opportunity to reply.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we are aware of the fact that there is an outbreak of hoof and mouth disease, particularly in Austria. Naturally we are enforcing all the regulations that we customarily put into effect when there is an outbreak of this disease in any part of the world from which imports come into Canada. We are also asking for restrictions to be placed on tourists coming from that area to Canada. As a matter of fact, we had some difficulties just last week with a plane load of them who came to Montreal.

MANPOWER

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TRAINING ON THE JOB AND TRAINING IN INDUSTRY PROGRAMS—INQUIRY WHETHER PRIVATE CORPORATIONS FAVOURED OVER CROWN COMPANIES IN MAKING GRANTS

Mr. Elias Nesdoly (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Would he indicate to the House whether it is the policy of his department to favour private corporations to the detriment of Crown corporations when it comes to giving grants under the training on the job program and the training in industry program?