

**Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I understand it was discussed at the meeting in Manitoba last weekend. I plan to get in touch with the chairman of the council of ministers, Mr. Bennett Campbell, the minister of education for Prince Edward Island. I tried to get him this morning but he was occupied; I hope to speak to him later in the day and to be in a position to give a more complete response to this question next week.

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[Translation]

### HOUSING

#### PROGRAM FOR REHABILITATION OF HOUSING—INQUIRY IF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT APPROVAL IS NECESSARY

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary.

I would like to know if a municipality, to be eligible for grants under the RRAP program, must necessarily get the approval of the provincial government?

[English]

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, it does.

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### TRANSPORT

#### NUMBER OF DREDGING CONTRACTS LET AND AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISION

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Would the minister advise the House what has been done regarding bidding procedures in dredging contracts, have any contracts been let and who is supervising these contracts?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, some contracts have been considered. This question, of course, in the broad area of government, would have to relate to the Minister of Public Works as well as myself. If the hon. member would refer to a specific contract I would be glad to try to deal with it.

**Mr. Paproski:** Mr. Speaker, may I direct the same question to the Minister of Public Works. Would the minister advise the House what is being done so far as dredging contracts are concerned? Is he supervising these contracts?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, dredging contracts are the responsibility of the department both with regard to letting and supervision. The department enters into the contract. There is, however, under the chairmanship of the Department of Public Works a committee that monitors not only the tenders but the contracts themselves and their execution.

#### DREDGING OF TURNING BASIN AT CHURCHILL—REQUEST FOR ACTION TO PREVENT DELAY OF SHIPPING

**Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. I

### Oral Questions

understand that the dredging program in the turning basin at Churchill is seriously behind schedule. Would the minister take immediate action to have the situation corrected so that this year's shipping season will not be further hampered or restricted?

● (1450)

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, there have been some earlier problems with regard to the dredging program. As much action as is possible has been taken to put that right. As the hon. member knows we are looking forward to a record movement of grain through Churchill this year.

#### REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE INADEQUACIES FOUND IN RAIL SERVICE BY COMMISSION WILL BE RECTIFIED

**Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the provisions of the Railway Act and specifically section 262 which requires the railway to provide adequate and suitable accommodation for traffic at all places served by it, and in view of the fact that the Railway Transport Committee of the Canadian Transport Commission is presently holding hearings in Saskatchewan to determine the adequacy of service to a number of centres in Saskatchewan by the Canadian Pacific Railway, will the minister assure concerned residents in Saskatchewan that where the committee finds the service inadequate the government will undertake to make sure that the provisions of Section 262 will be complied with by the railway.

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the very reason the committee is there is to determine adequacy and to take the appropriate action. The committee will do that and the commission has the power.

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### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### USE OF PRINCIPLE OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY IN RELATION TO NUCLEAR REACTORS TO GUARD AGAINST DIVERSION OF PLUTONIUM

**Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is supplementary to the other questions asked on the issue of the export of the CANDU reactor. Would the minister advise whether Canada has ever taken a position in terms of the nuclear exporting powers that she would be willing to grant diplomatic immunity in terms of its own requirements within the country and outside, so that we can enter into the principle of extraterritoriality in protecting reactors that we sell abroad so that there is some protection against diversion of plutonium from those materials. Has that concept been forwarded by the Canadian negotiators at any time.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I understand precisely what is meant by extra-territorial diplomatic immunity and reciprocity in these circumstances. In the normal course Canada relies on the International Atomic