

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we learned of the imprisonment of Mr. Serjeant in Tanzania on October 6. He was placed in detention on September 26. We made our first representations immediately; we have made them periodically since. Mr. Serjeant has not been charged. He is being held in detention under the authority of the President or the Prime Minister for matters involving state security.

Mr. Carter: In view of the fact this incident occurred on September 26 and that Canadian officials in that country learned of the incident one week later, can the minister tell the House why it has taken six weeks to inform the family of the whereabouts of this Canadian?

Mr. Sharp: As far as I understand, Mr. Speaker, our office got in touch with his family at the request of Mr. Serjeant immediately upon gaining access to his place of detention. I do not think the officials are at fault in this respect. We are doing what we can to get Mr. Serjeant released but, as I say, the Tanzanian authorities say this is a matter of state security and that the case is being handled on that basis. We are following up as best we can, and I do hope we will be able to get charges laid or obtain his release as soon as possible.

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ENERGY

CAPABILITY OF LAND TRANSPORT TO MOVE OIL TO MONTREAL—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and I believe he has received notice thereof. On Monday the minister told the House, as reported on page 8149 of *Hansard*, that the capability of the land transport system to deliver any substantial quantities of crude oil or petroleum products was not high and that he would give figures at a later date. Having regard to the Prime Minister's statement on November 22 and the minister's reference to overland oil movements on Monday, can the minister now tell the House what specific measures the government has taken to establish an overland oil supply system to Montreal, and how much oil is being handled per day by this system?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, at the moment there is no truck and rail movement, and as long as shipment is possible through the St. Lawrence Seaway it will not be necessary to resort to this higher cost system. The estimate we have at the moment is that a level of about 40,000 to 60,000 barrels per day might be obtained, but in order to meet this figure very substantial investment both in loading and in unloading facilities will be required in addition to the improvement of available tank cars used for this purpose. The ministry of transport at the moment is completing a survey with the two national railways in regard to this question and has also been in touch with major trucking firms, and I understand will be able to be more definitive on this point within a few days.

Oral Questions

Mr. Jarvis: Can the minister give his assurance today that the overland oil supply system mentioned by him and the Prime Minister will be adequate to meet oil shortages in eastern Canada after the freeze-up of the St. Lawrence Seaway?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, we anticipate that, unless there is a dramatic improvement in the figures I have given, there will be a shortfall.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

POSITION OF MINISTER ON PROPOSED GUARANTEED INCOME POLICY

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare?

In view of the fact that last week, the minister, addressing the Canadian Tax Foundation announced, according to an Ottawa daily, his intention of setting aside his guaranteed annual income policy, I should like to ask him, in view of the circumstances, whether he intends to continue to apply the policy introduced some time ago or to give it up?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I wish to state here, very clearly and categorically, that the government is maintaining the policy put forward in April of last year, namely, to guarantee an income to all persons who are unable to work or who are so considered, as well as a supplement to all other groups of persons.

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[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

HALIFAX-DARTMOUTH DOCKWORKERS' DISPUTE—PROSPECT OF EARLY SETTLEMENT

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Is the minister now in a position to give us a progress report on the mediation taking place with respect to the dockworkers' dispute at Halifax and Dartmouth, and can he advise the House whether he is optimistic about an early settlement? If not, what plans is the government preparing?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question. I believe he will be relatively pleased to know, and certainly I and the government are, that a settlement has been arrived at today, we believe. A memorandum of agreement is being drawn up and we hope it will be signed today. However, I would advise him that it is, of course, subject to ratification.