

*Oral Questions*

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the matter of the Laprade plants is still under discussion by the Canadian government and the Quebec government, as it was indeed by the former government and the Quebec government.

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[English]

**AIR TRANSPORT**

## SALE OF NORDAIR—POSSIBLE PURCHASER

**Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Because of apparent delays in the sale of Nordair, which is now in the hands of Air Canada, and because of the importance of this sale to the Atlantic region, could the minister advise the House when the CTC and the government will reach a decision on this matter? Hopefully, then we will get some service in the future in the four Atlantic provinces. We are particularly interested in the application by Eastern Provincial Airways.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** I, too, am interested in resolving the disposition of Nordair, as is the government. The matter is currently before cabinet, and when a decision is reached the wheels will be placed in motion for the disposition of Nordair subject to CTC approval.

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**METRICATION**

## CONVERSION OF RETAIL SCALES

**Mr. Ray Chenier (Timmins-Chapleau):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Industry. Has the cabinet approved the hon. gentleman's proposal to delay the metric conversion of retail scales which he has been threatening us with for the last two weeks, to the consternation and alarm of retailers?

**Hon. Ron Huntington (Minister of State for Small Businesses and Industry):** I am aware that the matter has passed one cabinet committee. I have not been made aware of the decision of the inner cabinet on that recommendation. I might take this opportunity to clear up the confusion which exists: what we are specifically concerned about is the weighing and the marking of individual measurements at point of sale.

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**PETRO-CANADA**CALL FOR RETENTION OF CORPORATION AS VEHICLE FOR  
CANADIAN INVESTMENT

**Mr. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador):** My question is to the Prime Minister, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Can the Prime Minister tell the House whether the Premier of Newfoundland has been in touch with him to confirm that an additional 2,400

[Mr. Leduc.]

barrels of oil a day has been discovered at the Hibernia well, off Newfoundland? Can he confirm that this is, in fact, a find of commercial importance, and in view of the fact that Petro-Canada has a 25 per cent interest in this well and is the only Canadian company with such an interest, does he not think this is an adequate argument for retaining Petro-Canada as an adequate vehicle for investment by Canadians in their own resources?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, the Premier of Newfoundland has not been in touch with me on this matter and I cannot confirm the details of the rumoured find. We naturally hope that it is correct and that there will be more extensive finds yet to come. I am delighted that a spokesman for the Liberal party has now changed his attitude toward Petro-Canada and is accepting our view that Petro-Canada should be an instrument for investment by individual Canadians instead of simply being a static instrument of the state.

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**THE ENVIRONMENT**

## IJC STUDY OF WATER LEVELS IN LAKE ERIE

**Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment and concerns proposals contained in a study by the International Joint Commission on water levels in Lake Erie. It has been suggested that the flow of water from Lake Erie into Lake Ontario via the Niagara River, around the town of Fort Erie, be increased. As this area is heavily involved in tourism, and since many tourists and residents use Lake Erie and the Niagara River for boating, sailing and fishing, would the minister assure us that the increased flow would not adversely affect this area?

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Postmaster General and Minister of the Environment):** The study to which the hon. member refers is being carried out by the International Joint Commission on behalf of the Canadian and the United States governments. It will be the first stage of an investigation; no work will take place until after that. I can assure the hon. member that there will be sufficient time between his concern as expressed today and any definitive plans to ensure that the concern to which he has drawn the attention of the House will be met.

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**TRANSPORT**

## MOVEMENT OF GRAIN—CAR ALLOCATION FORMULA

**Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. The Conservative task force on grain movement recommends a change in the car allocation formula which would encourage the private purchase and leasing of rail cars by companies. Can the minister assure us he will reject a proposal which would give a great