

for the Government of Quebec. Since the tax point yield . . . That's over your head, Tit-Roch!

**Some Hon. Members:** Ha, ha!

**Mr. Duclos:** Since the yield on the tax points which would then be transferred to Quebec would be less than the average yield for tax points for Canada as a whole, could the Minister inform the House what the consequences would be of transferring jurisdiction over old age security pensions paid to senior citizens living in Quebec?

Not as easy as yesterday's question, Tit-Roch!

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I wish the Hon. Member for Joliette would repeat out loud for the media, his constituents and all Quebecers, an opinion that shows, surprisingly, that today he is clearly a federalist and that he realizes Ottawa's old age pensions are steady pensions . . . Well, that is because you were not clear. Only the ambiguous are misunderstood.

To answer the Hon. Member's question, and without wishing to alarm senior citizens, because I think this is only a red herring thrown out by Dr. Laurin . . . So, without wishing to cause our senior citizens undue concern, I think it is obvious that the value of the tax points represented by our old age security payments to Quebec pensioners would be much lower, because a tax point from Quebec is worth less, and has been for many years, unfortunately, so that Quebec pensioners would receive less money if they had provincial pensions.

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[English]

#### INDIAN AFFAIRS

##### IMPACT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ALCAN PROJECT—REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs who is just behind the curtain looking for delegates. Would he come back to his seat?

Now that the Minister is back in the House, I am sure he is aware that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has completed meetings throughout British Columbia regarding Alcan's \$3 billion Kemano completion project. Fishermen, native people, farmers, and water users generally have pretty much unanimously called for a full public inquiry. The Minister is aware that Treasury Board has put forward funding for some of the affected bands in the area. Two weeks ago he told the Haizla people that he was going to call a full public inquiry. Will he tell this House, the native people in that area generally, fishermen, and British Columbians whether or not that public inquiry will be called before the end of this session in June?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, it is not my role, nor do

#### Oral Questions

I have the authority, to insist on a public inquiry. If he is asking my view on a matter of this significance, I think there should be a very full airing indeed of all the implications. Yes, I indicated that I would be prepared to consider the application of the band for the money necessary to undertake some real research into what the implications of such a development would be.

#### MINISTER'S POWERS

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, at least the people in British Columbia understand the effect of this project is to lower the Fraser River by three feet at Hell's Gate and join the two major river systems of British Columbia, the Skeena and the Fraser. I recommend that the Minister talk to the parliamentary legal counsel. Under the federal Inquiries Act he has the power to call a full public inquiry, and I do not think it is legitimate for him to go around peddling leadership bull to people across the country that he is going to call a full public inquiry, and then stand up in the House and say he does not have the power to do it. Is the Government going to do it or not? It has had five years to call it, and it has done nothing.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Come on, John. Put up or shut up.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for St. John's West.

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#### INDUSTRY

##### FUTURE OF PULP AND PAPER MILL AT CORNER BROOK, NFLD.

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, responsible for DRIE. It has to do with the situation at Corner Brook where, as the Minister knows, Bowater is closing its pulp and paper mill this fall. A number of proposals have been made to the Newfoundland Government and Bowater with respect to other concerns purchasing the mill and carrying on, but they are all dependent on financing from the Government of Newfoundland and the Government of Canada for improvements to the mill. Could the Minister tell us whether he has received any proposals, whether the Government of Canada has a task force reviewing this situation, and just what the situation is now?

● (1500)

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member knows that the Premier has asked us not to discuss the details of any of these commercial negotiations in public, obviously because of potential problems they would have in Newfoundland in handling the discussions with the various companies themselves. I can say, however, that we have indicated to the Province of Newfoundland that the pulp and paper modernization agreement funds, the balance of which I believe is almost \$26 million, are available for any new purchaser of Bowater. We