

Oral Questions

cessfully by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the national economic policies of the past four years, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government is going to undertake a thorough and independent review of existing regional development programs, and in particular is the government going to set up a special task force to co-ordinate over-all regional development and transportation policies to seek further improvements in these depressed areas?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I cannot agree with the premise of the question, but so far as an over-all review is concerned the minister responsible for Regional Economic Expansion has done such a review and is now in the process of discussing it with the various provinces. He is engaged in a series of trips to the various parts of Canada to discuss with them the various aspects of that review, and of course the Minister of Transport is doing the same thing in his area.

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[Translation]

PUBLIC WORKS**EROSION ALONG ST. LAWRENCE RIVER—CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALLS—POSSIBILITY OF AMENDING STANDARDS**

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Public Works.

Could he say whether he has ordered his officials to consider particularly the problem of retaining walls along the shores of the St. Lawrence River in order to change the present standards which keep riparian owners from being adequately protected?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the problem of damages caused by erosion along the shores of the St. Lawrence is still under consideration. Of course, I cannot commit either the department or the Canadian government to take the responsibility for any erosion due to natural causes. Again, when erosion is caused either by shipping or federal works, we then assume responsibility. I would say that in certain parts of the St. Lawrence it is quite difficult to determine whether or not erosion is caused by shipping, and we try to establish our limits as precisely as possible.

CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALLS—DELIMITATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES—ADVISABILITY OF CONVENING FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

In view of the problems raised as to jurisdiction of the various levels of government, does the hon. minister intend to convene a federal-provincial conference for the purpose of discussing this matter so that jurisdictions of federal, provincial and municipal governments may be clearly established and that the public be better informed and know to whom applications should be made?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that our responsibilities are

[Mr. MacKay.]

quite clearly established and we have no intention, at least for the present, to convene a federal-provincial conference in order to define them.

POINTE-AU-PIC—INQUIRY RESPECTING COMPLETION OF RETAINING WALL

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Further to my colleague's question, does the department, which undertook the construction of retaining walls in Pointe-au-Pic some six to ten years ago, expect to bring this work to completion this year?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, since the project mentioned is a specific one, I should have to review the file in order to know what to decide.

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[English]

PENITENTIARIES**BRITISH COLUMBIA—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON STABBING**

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. It relates to a question I asked yesterday of the Minister of Justice regarding a stabbing that took place at the British Columbia penitentiary a week ago this Wednesday. Can he tell us who got stabbed, who did the stabbing, and whether any charges are pending?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): I am awaiting a report on that, Mr. Speaker. When I get it I will give it to the hon. member as soon as possible.

EFFECT OF CLOSING MINIMUM SECURITY INSTITUTIONS AT SPRINGHILL AND BLUE MOUNTAIN ON REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Solicitor General if he has made an assessment of why decisions were taken by his department to close the minimum security institutions at Springhill and at Blue Mountain in New Brunswick, which has resulted in a great deal of the overcrowding that has occurred at both the Dorchester and Springhill maximum and medium security institutions and has in effect just about destroyed the rehabilitation program carried out in those two institutions?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the institutions referred to that were closed were minimum security institutions. Our problem is not really with minimum security inmates; it is with maximum and to a certain extent medium security inmates. I must also say that at the same time those two institutions were closed a new centre was opened in Halifax, a community correctional centre, and another is shortly to be opened in Moncton as a minimum security centre. These will allow inmates to work in the community at the same time as they are carrying on their rehabilitation program.