

when they signed their collective agreement recently. I deplore that requirement on the part of the inside postal workers but, in a spirit of co-operation and anxious to break the deadlock, my colleague did not close the door. He did not say no, but I think that before saying yes the government would like to have assurances from the postal workers and from Mr. Parrot himself with respect to the true role that Mr. Warren might be expected to play in the next few hours and the next few days.

Unfortunately, in his letter to my colleague, the President of the Treasury Board, Mr. Parrot is much too vague about Mr. Warren's participation and eventual role. And before jeopardizing the significant work which Mr. Warren might do within a few months as head of the new Canada Post Corporation it would be imperative that those points be clarified with Mr. Parrot or one of his spokesmen, as had been suggested by my colleague, the President of the Treasury Board.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

SALMON FISHING CONFLICT IN QUEBEC—INQUIRY RESPECTING DATE OF MEETING WITH CONCERNED PARTIES

Mr. André Maltais (Manicouagan): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It deals with the current situation in Quebec with regard to salmon fishing.

As the Prime Minister of Canada has asked that a meeting be held in the fall with the Indians, which invitation the latter have accepted, I myself got in touch with the Attikamek-Montagnais council who have agreed to meet with the Canadian government. The Indians would like the minister to say exactly when this meeting will be held, and who will set the date for it. I should also like to ask the minister to tell us whether there has been any consultation with the Quebec government with a view to dealing directly with the dispute involving the Indians. Again in this connection, Madam Speaker, I should like to know whether or not the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is directly in contact with Quebec Indians concerning that conflict.

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, I would say that my officials and staff have been in touch with the chief at Restigouche this morning. He indicated that at this stage he might be prepared to compromise on the situation in some way to resolve this troublesome dispute following his conversation with the Premier of Quebec yesterday. We are keeping in touch with the chief to find out that exact dimensions of his compromise and to ascertain whether over the weekend or at the beginning of next week we might finally find a solution to this matter.

Oral Questions

ENERGY

IMPERIAL OIL PROJECT AT COLD LAKE, ALTA.—MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON BLACKMAIL

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Yesterday in response to a question regarding the cancellation of the \$12 billion Cold Lake heavy oil project, the minister said that the government would not be blackmailed by any oil company. Does the minister believe that Imperial Oil is blackmailing the government? If so, how?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, when I made that statement, I was replying to a member of the Conservative party who asked that we reach an agreement. The implication was that we should be ready to sign any agreement, at any price, at any cost, to get that project back on the rails.

Mr. Epp: No.

Mr. Lalonde: I indicated that we were not ready to do that and that this government will have to bear in mind the interest of Canadian consumers and the interest of all parties concerned. This government is not ready to buckle under any particular threat of suspension or cancellation of any project just to sign anywhere where any particular company would wish us to sign. That is our position and it remains our position. Our interest is to have a fair deal for the producing provinces, for the people of Canada and for the industry, but not any deal.

Mr. Beatty: You are not getting any deal either.

QUERY RESPECTING OIL SELF-SUFFICIENCY TARGET FOR 1990

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, I think we all feel the same way about this. But I say to the minister he is blackmailing the people of the country with the negotiating stance that he has taken.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson: Employment in the manufacturing industry today has fallen by 26,000 jobs. Here is an opportunity to reverse that downward trend and to get jobs back into Ontario and Quebec as a result of this project.

Yesterday the minister also said there is no justification to conclude that the decision announced yesterday meant it would take two years to start the project again. Arden Haynes, president of Esso Resources, said quite specifically on the program "Canada AM" that it would take a year and a half to two years to start the project again. Since the minister clearly misled the House, I ask him today to reserve his position and state clearly that that is the case. Because of the casual attitude which the minister has taken with regard to the cancellation of these huge projects, can he also advise the House whether he believes that the Cold Lake project and the