

Inquiries of the Ministry

whether or not he is ready to make a statement concerning the government's plans to recover the money advanced to this institution?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I am not ready to make a statement on this occasion but I hope it will be soon.

REPORT ON SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND WATER POLLUTION

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for housing. Can the minister tell the House why his department has held up for more than six months the publication of a report on water pollution? Can he tell us when we may expect the 14 recommendations contained in the report on water pollution and sewage disposal to be made public?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the report to which the hon. member refers. We have at any given time a series of staff papers on a broad range of subjects. These are internal papers, generally speaking. Some proposals we accept and some we reject. I cannot identify precisely the particular report about which the hon. member is talking.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that we might save time if the hon. member would communicate directly with the minister to identify the report in question.

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SUPPLY AND SERVICES

LETTING OF CONTRACTS WITHOUT COMPETITIVE TENDERING

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Supply and Services. Since \$1.8 million was paid to one consultant firm for federal contracts in the last two years without competitive tendering, can the minister indicate what guarantees there may be against abuses in awarding contracts on the basis of non-competitive tendering?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is putting a question which in my view is very wide in scope. I would think that kind of question should be placed on the order paper.

Mr. Skoberg: Mr. Speaker, this matter is of some urgency because non-competitive tenders are being sought. May I ask whether consideration is being given to abolishing non-competitive tendering which seems to be increasing?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that the additional information the hon. member is seeking might be included in a statement to the House on motions or in a written reply to the hon. member's written question.

[Mr. Scott.]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

NATURE OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PREMIER OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Can the minister say if he had discussions yesterday in Ottawa with the premier of Newfoundland and is he able to say what matters were discussed at the meeting?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that I had discussions with the premier of Newfoundland yesterday. A wide range of matters was discussed, including how well the hon. member for St. John's West is doing in the House.

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URBAN AFFAIRS

TRILEVEL NATIONAL CONSULTATION—FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS—SPECIAL POWERS FOR MUNICIPALITIES WITH OVER ONE MILLION POPULATION

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for urban affairs. As the three levels of government yesterday at the Winnipeg tripartite conference committed themselves to national consultation on problems created by mushrooming urban growth may I ask, first, whether regular meetings are planned and, if so, how often and, second, whether special powers are to be given to municipalities with populations of over one million?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the commitment to the principle of trilevel consultation was, I think, a very encouraging action yesterday. It came after two days of what I would describe as difficult and intense negotiations. It was a commitment subject to ratification by the governments represented by each of the provincial ministers attending the Winnipeg meeting. The details the hon. member is seeking I regret that I cannot give him now because the intergovernmental committees to deal with those kinds of details have just now been found. I would emphasize that we will have to move stage by stage into this area, holding to the commitment that national trilevel consultations will take place, I hope, on a full and continuing basis starting late this fall or, at the latest, early next year.

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BRIDGES

OHIO-ONTARIO—GOVERNMENT ACTION FOLLOWING STUDY BY STATE INDICATING FEASIBILITY

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, this matter is of interest to several departments of government, but I have taken the liberty of giving notice of my question to the Minister of Public Works. Since a very comprehensive study initiated and completed mainly by the state of Ohio indicates that an international bridge linking that state with the province of Ontario is not only