

holding such a meeting. Can we now have some indication whether such a meeting is to be held and, if so, on what date? That question may be directed to the Minister of Finance since he is implicated. If not, I direct it to the Prime Minister. I am sorry, the Prime Minister was not involved. Will the Prime Minister advise whether a meeting of the first ministers is to be held some time this month prior to the date of the budget and, if so, on what date, the purpose of the meeting being to determine the price of crude oil in Canada?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker. There is no plan for a federal-provincial meeting of first ministers. Of course, this does not preclude consultation on a bilateral basis with various first ministers.

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### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### SUGGESTED ACTION TO CONTROL POLLUTION OF LAKE TIMISKAMING AND UPPER OTTAWA RIVER

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of the Environment. In view of the fact the cities of Ottawa and Hull, the provincial governments of both Quebec and Ontario and the federal government have co-operated in controlling pollution of the Ottawa River, will the minister consider extending the federal control to the environmental officials operating on the upper Ottawa or Lake Timiskaming so that some control can be exercised before raw sewage is dumped by some municipalities into the Ottawa system? That control only rests with the provincial governments and the area municipalities at the present time.

[Translation]

**Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, obviously, if the report of the task force I set up to study the problem of the Ottawa river pollution indicates that the causes of that pollution are found upstream, certainly solutions will have to be found to it; then we can find out what the municipalities can do for, as we know, they are responsible for the treatment of their sewage.

● (1450)

[English]

**Mr. Peters:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister may or may not know of her responsibility because of the interprovincial nature of Lake Timiskaming, but when New Liskeard dumped all its lagoons into the river recently it caused considerable problems in the area, and this sewage will flow down into the Ottawa River as well. Secondly, an investigation is going on which indicates that a large amount of mercury and probably a large amount of arsenic as well is in that area. In view of the interprovincial nature of this problem, would the minister see that her officials participate with those now examining the situation?

[Translation]

**Mrs. Sauvé:** Mr. Speaker, that is the very reason for which I set up a task force. Several jurisdictions are

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involved. I repeat that, although the hon. member mentions the jurisdictions of the two provinces and the federal government, the fact remains that nothing can be done without the co-operation of those municipalities.

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[English]

### MULTICULTURALISM

#### DATE OF PUBLICATION OF REPORT ON STATUS OF NON-OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister in charge of multiculturalism. Would the minister please advise the House when the report on the status of non-official languages in Canada will be presented to the House and why the report is being held up? Surely this report of some 500 pages has been translated into French.

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I believe my information that it has been translated is correct. It is in both official languages. I can assure my hon. friend that as soon as it comes out of the printers I will make it public, and I have undertaken to do that.

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### NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

#### MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE HEARINGS—POSSIBILITY GOVERNMENT WILL PRESENT BRIEF

**Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In questions addressed yesterday to the right hon. Prime Minister on the National Energy Board's preliminary hearing on the Mackenzie Valley pipeline application, the Prime Minister stated that he would take notice of the question and refer the matter to the minister. Can the minister respond today to the question: In view of the fact that the National Energy Board has scheduled a preliminary hearing on the Mackenzie Valley pipeline for July 8, 9 and 10, is the government contemplating presenting or does it intend to present a statement or brief to the board?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, so far as I know there is no intention of doing so. The normal course of action in this regard is to permit the private parties to make their presentations to the National Energy Board, which exercising its best judgment arrives at a decision. If the decision is affirmative it is referred to the executive, to the Governor in Council, for a final decision. It seems to me under those circumstances the advisable course is to await presentation of the evidence on both sides of the project, and then on the basis of the board's informed decision it will be for the government to arrive at a conclusion.