

Oral Questions

ENERGY

POSSIBILITY OF URANIUM STOCKPILING PROGRAM IN
LIGHT OF OVER-ALL SHORTAGE

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the over-all energy shortage, has the minister considered the possibility of a uranium stockpiling program? I am particularly interested, of course, in that part of north Hastings where there are four uranium mines sitting idle.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, we have not specifically considered new stockpiling. We anticipate that with an improvement in the international price for uranium there will be a greater incentive to some of our existing Canadian mines to bring capacity back into production again. I would expect a bright future for the north part of Hastings County in particular.

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GRAIN

WHEAT—REASON FOR DELAY IN PAYMENTS TO ONTARIO
PRODUCERS UNDER TWO-PRICE SYSTEM

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture regarding payments to Ontario wheat producers under the two-price system. A few weeks ago we were informed by the grains division of his department that a formula would be worked out and payments made before too long. I understand that the formula has not been worked out and nothing has been done. What is the reason for the delay and when will things be straightened out?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the \$8.3 million are to be paid out to Ontario wheat producers under an agreement we have with the Ontario Winter Wheat Marketing Board. As soon as we receive information from that board, these payments will be made. We are awaiting that information at the present time.

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COMMUNICATIONS

INTENTION RESPECTING LEGISLATION TO MERGE
REGULATORY FUNCTIONS OF RADIO-TELEVISION AND
TRANSPORT COMMISSIONS

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications. In view of the rather inconclusive result of the communications conference last week, does the minister intend to proceed with legislation to merge the regulatory functions of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission with the communications committee of the Canadian Transport Commission?

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Yes, Mr. Speaker. However, we have taken no final decision on this because of the legislative requirements of the government program.

[English]

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, in view of the desire stated by the minister at the conference to negotiate, discuss and consult with the provinces, will the federal-provincial officials committee that is supposed to meet early next year have any legislative input?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier (Hochelaga): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the legislation as a whole, we promised the provinces we would discuss it anew with them before introducing it. But I warned at the federal-provincial conference, and the hon. member must be acquainted with my statement, that concerning the first part which deals primarily with the federal government's straightening out its own affairs, that we would consider ourselves free to legislate without any further consultation with the provinces, especially because the latter seem in no rush to hold another conference.

[English]

PARTICIPATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF YUKON AND
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES IN FUTURE CONFERENCES
WITH PROVINCES

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. Before any further conferences are held on the very important subject of communications, which is rather vital north of the 60th parallel, will the minister ensure that there will be representation at future conferences from the Yukon and Northwest Territories?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the provinces' proposal goes even further: it suggests that the next conference be held in the Northwest Territories.

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Good.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COMPOSITION OF GROUP TO STUDY CONTROLLED
THERMONUCLEAR FUSION

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Science and Technology. In view of the government's proposal for a detailed study of a Canadian program on controlled thermonuclear fusion and the setting up of a management committee comprised of a group centred primarily in the province of Quebec, I should like to ask the minister if requests for inclusion in the proposed study have come from universities in the western provinces which are engaged in similar research studies?