

*Oral Questions***ENERGY**END OF MORATORIUM ON OIL AND GAS DRILLING OFF QUEEN
CHARLOTTE ISLANDS

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Government's decision to lift the moratorium on offshore drilling in British Columbia shocked and surprised British Columbia Indians, fishermen, and environmentalists. The Government had not used the moratorium years to do the necessary oceanographical and biological studies to determine the long-term environmental risks. Now it is acting with haste and expediency.

Will the Minister assure the House that no drilling will take place until long-term studies have been done and the data analysed, and until public hearings have been held on how the drilling will proceed and who has jurisdiction?

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I can assure my hon. colleague that people in British Columbia were very pleased with yesterday's announcement. Second, the announcement is intended to make it known that both Governments have accepted the recommendations of the task force on those matters. Third, we have committed ourselves to negotiate an accord with the provincial Government. That will answer some aspects of his question.

Mr. Manly: The Hon. Minister of Energy will soon see how pleased the people of British Columbia are with this deal, which is a sell-out of the environment.

IMPACT OF DRILLING ON FISHERY

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister tell the House what studies have been done on the impact of any drilling on the fishery? What will be the impact on aboriginal rights, which extend out into the ocean shelf? What will be the real impact of this drilling?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I feel the situation is quite clear. Governments have agreed to set up a committee to consider environmental issues. Both Governments have accepted the vast majority, that is to say, almost all the recommendations, especially on environmental issues.

Thirdly, the Government has accepted to negotiate an agreement such as the one we signed with Newfoundland or Nova Scotia. Within the framework of these agreements, any kind of future development in whatever shape or form, will not take place without public hearings, as was the case with the Newfoundland and Nova Scotia projects.

[*English*]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

POSSIBILITY OF STRIKE

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister responsible for Canada Post, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. After reducing postal service in many ways, the Government is preparing to shut down the postal service completely by forcing postal workers into a strike that they do not want and no Canadians want.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister ask his Minister responsible for Canada Post to stop acting like someone who is betting on a horse at the race-track? Yesterday the Minister said about a possible postal strike: "If I were to put odds on it I would say it does not look that good". We want the Government to get involved in settling that strike. Will it carry out these negotiations with the union at arm's length, watching as a witness, or will the Deputy Prime Minister order his Minister to get involved and settle this before it gets worse?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, the conciliation report has just been brought down. I believe there is a clear indication by both sides that there is a desire to re-engage in negotiations. I am sure the Hon. Member would want that negotiating process to take place. We encourage it and we hope a strike can be avoided. We will certainly do everything in our power to assist in facilitating both parties to get back to the bargaining table. That is the way this issue can best be settled for all Canadians and the workers particularly.

[*Translation*]

QUERY WHEN GOVERNMENT WILL INTERVENE

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister is saying that the Government is keeping an eye on the situation. That is all it is saying.

How can the Government allow the situation to deteriorate further and end up with a total breakdown in postal services? How can the Minister be satisfied with watching the game from the side, comfortably seated by the boards, without realizing that the time has come for him to get on the ice and get involved. We will end up with a strike and the Government will be responsible for it.

When will the Government finally decide to intervene in these negotiations which are a stand still?

[*English*]

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am sure I do not have to explain to my hon. friend that the collective bargaining process in Canada is well entrenched and recognized by Canada Post, the Minister, the union involved, and the leadership of that union. The collective bargaining process in