

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker. I did not bring up this problem with the Minister of Finance, and I must admit to the hon. member that I do not feel his suggestion is one that should be retained.

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[English]

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

REQUEST FOR NAMES OF DONORS OF SWIMMING POOL FOR PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister I would like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. With a view to establishing whether or not improprieties or conflict of interest factors exist in regard to the construction of a swimming pool at 24 Sussex Drive, will the Acting Prime Minister tell the House whether the government will make public the names of all donors, the amounts donated in each case and whether donors, reportedly including the Prime Minister himself, will be allowed to deduct the full amount of their donations for income tax purposes?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that there is a question by the hon. member on the order paper which will be answered.

Mr. Speaker: I was going to intercede to the same effect. In addition, it is precisely the same question which had been posed in a previous session.

An hon. Member: But not answered.

Mr. Cossitt: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the Acting Prime Minister refers to the fact that this is a question on the order paper. If history repeats itself and the government answers as quickly as they have answered other questions, we will never receive the answer, and I think it is a legitimate question to ask. I think that the government is avoiding and clouding this issue so that the Canadian people are not allowed to know what is going on. I think that this is improper, and I think that my question, with all due respect to the Acting Prime Minister, is very much in order.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to the hon. member asking his question. He has asked it; it will be answered in due course.

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FISHERIES

SUGGESTED STUDY OF EFFECT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPOSED OIL REFINERY IN LOWER MAINLAND OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State (Fisheries). In view of the answer of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to a question regarding the establishment of a

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major oil refinery in the lower mainland of British Columbia by the British Columbia Petroleum Corporation in which he said that there was some indication that the corporation is considering such an establishment, has the minister initiated, or will he immediately initiate a study to ensure the protection of the quality and quantity of the water in the Campbell and Nicomekl Rivers in that area?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I will take this question as notice and look at the details mentioned by the hon. member. If there is an impact on the quality of water in terms of fisheries, obviously it would be a matter of great concern to me.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

TRANSFER OF HOSPITALS TO OTHER JURISDICTIONS—REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE STUDY

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the many representations made to the minister expressing concern over the transfer of veterans' hospitals and the effect of reduced care to aging veterans, would the minister advise the House as to what action he has taken to investigate the increasing need of bed space or domiciliary care and the other needs of aging veterans?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this is kept under very close observation by officials in my department working with hospitals, and the report that I have is that care is provided where required to all veterans in Canada.

Mr. Marshall: In view of the fact that the representations made contradict what the minister has said, I wonder if he would agree to make a statement on motions at the earliest opportunity outlining the government's position, and whether he will table all correspondence over the past year to confirm the status of available bed space and the standard of care for veterans. Would he also refer the matter to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs to review the cabinet decision made in 1963 which has been affected by changing conditions?

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, with reference to the first part of the question, I am prepared at any time to release a statement pertaining to our hospitals. With regard to the second portion of the question I would be glad to look into it and see what can be done or has been done.

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● (1450)

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

ENGINEERS' STRIKE—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, following on a question I put to the Minister of Labour on Friday afternoon I should like to know, since 75 per cent of all C.N.