

Oral Questions

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Table it.

Mr. Trudeau: I will gladly do that.

Madam Speaker: I wonder if the Prime Minister would please give the answer in his usual brief manner.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Go ahead, George, ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Hees: Madam Speaker, I did send the Prime Minister notice in the hope that this would help him not to mess it up.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: But it is obvious that more than notice is necessary.

As a practical politician, does the Prime Minister not regret very much the fact that he offered so much and received so very little in return for his promise, and could he also bring us up to date on his other favourite project—and tell us how he is making out—which is to twin western ridings with eastern Liberal members of Parliament?

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, the first section, which is some 310 miles long, is under construction, and it will be double tracked by the mid-1980s. With respect to the Valemount to Vancouver section, some 440 miles, about half of it will be completed by 1988. In so far as the third section, that is the Winnipeg-Edmonton section, 50 miles of it has already been completed. We figure that by 1988—

An hon. Member: Before they get back to power.

Mr. Trudeau:—while this government is renewing the mandate which will come a couple of years down the road, at least 40 per cent of the whole line will be double tracked. That will be some 590 miles out of 1,450. In this way we will permit at least the CN to be moving those rich resources which are so bountiful in the west and which would not have been able to move if we had not double tracked and continued to double track the CNR.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ENERGY**POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF BAY OF FUNDY TIDAL POWER**

Mr. W. Kenneth Robinson (Etobicoke-Lakeshore): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that Japan has a project to harness tidal power and is about to build a number of artificial concrete estuaries in Japan—Bay of Fundy, so to speak—to harness tidal power and transform it into electricity, will the minister indicate if he will consider such a project for the Bay of Fundy to provide electricity for New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island so that these provinces will have less reliance on oil, and will he look into the Japanese

project to obtain expertise, if necessary, to develop the electric tidal power potential of the Bay of Fundy?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, there is already a management committee under the Canada-Nova Scotia agreement on oil conservation and substitution, and that committee has been approached to update the federal-provincial study on tidal power out of the Bay of Fundy. An extensive study has already been carried out. The government is willing and ready to update that study.

The hon. member has referred to the Japanese experience or project in this regard. I am sure that the federal-provincial group which is examining this situation will want to review the project which is being considered by Japan.

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● (1450)

LABOUR RELATIONS**B.C. TELEPHONE COMPANY—POSSIBLE ACTION BY MINISTER TO EFFECT SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE**

Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody): Madam Speaker, my question, directed to the Minister of Labour, concerns a very serious labour matter in British Columbia. Despite the acceptance on the part of the telecommunications workers of at least three mediation reports, the foreign-owned B.C. Telephone company continues to ignore our Canadian labour traditions and to behave like some cross between a southern textile corporation and a nineteenth century Texas cattle baron. I should like to ask the minister what he intends to do, from the vantage point of his high office, to get these two parties to settle this matter, especially to lean on the British Columbia Telephone company and to bring an end to this long and bitter labour dispute which has gone on for far too long, and is likely to escalate.

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for a very important question because this topic is one of very severe concern to people in British Columbia at this moment. I had the opportunity of being in Victoria and Vancouver last Thursday and Friday and of examining the situation at a meeting with the labour department officials in that area. There is no question this is a particularly difficult work stoppage. I express my regret as the Minister of Labour that the B.C. Telephone Company has not seen fit to accept the Peck conciliation report which was accepted by the union. What I also found in British Columbia was very widespread concern that the management of B.C. Tel owned, as it is, in the United States, was perhaps not as sensitive to the situation in British Columbia as might be desired and, if they were, then perhaps a settlement might come more rapidly.

Mr. Rose: I thank the minister for his reply. I would like to suggest that while he uses the words "sensitive to our labour traditions" on the part of B.C. Tel and its foreign roots, some