

*Oral Questions*

has already announced its willingness to support financially the very project he opposes. [English]

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**THE CONSTITUTION**

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONFERENCE ON ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Prime Minister who will know that under the Constitution he must call a conference within one year to decide the question of aboriginal rights. Has he decided which groups will be invited, when they will be invited, and what role he sees the federal government playing in this constitutional conference?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the first step would be to consult with the provinces and see what their views are on the date for such a meeting, and what groups they would advise be invited to it. We could then have a discussion and try and reach final agreement on the date, agenda, and the participants.

## POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING PRELIMINARY CONFERENCES

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin):** Madam Speaker, since the conference is to be called to decide on the definition of aboriginal rights, can the Prime Minister tell me whether he will be in touch with his responsible minister to ask whether preliminary conferences can be called so that there are no surprises, or does he feel one conference is sufficient to decide the question of aboriginal rights?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I certainly will be acting in consultation with the minister in this matter. However, the hon. member obviously knows that the minister and the Secretary of State have been funding many native groups in order that they can pursue their legitimate claims and definition of their rights. This is not a new suggestion; we have been doing it for years and it has cost many millions of dollars.

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**CANADA POST**

## QUERY RESPECTING POSSIBLE INCREASES IN POSTAL RATES

**Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown):** Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Has Canada Post, made representations to the government for an increase in first-class postal rates?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** No, Madam Speaker.

## TIMING OF FUTURE RATE INCREASE

**Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown):** Madam Speaker, will the minister assure the people of Canada that there will not be another postal increase until service is demonstrably improved, or for a year and a half, whichever comes first?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, it is a decision that is primarily the responsibility of the board of directors of the corporation, but as we all know, any decision must ultimately be submitted for approval to cabinet. I feel the question is purely speculative and that it is not really an issue at this time. I am confident that the main objective of the new Canada Post Corporation is not to increase postage rates but to improve postal services in Canada.

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[English]

**HEALTH**

## PRACTICE OF VACCINATING AGAINST SMALLPOX

**Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Hamilton West):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Despite the spectacular results achieved by the World Health Organization in completely eliminating smallpox, that dreaded virus disease, from the face of the earth, can the minister tell me why some government institutions still persist in vaccinating people against smallpox? This practice is redundant, uncomfortable, and can induce complications.

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Madam Speaker, from what I know of the background of that question, and considering the personal case which was referred to, concerning one of our colleagues in this House, I do not think there is any reason to be worried about the vaccinations being carried on in some federal government departments.

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● (1450)

**SHIPBUILDING**

## SUBSIDY RATE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DOMESTIC-USE VESSELS

**Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. It concerns unfair foreign competition for Canadian shipbuilders. The Canadian Shipbuilding & Ship Repairing Association reported:

During the past 20 months Canadian shipping and petroleum companies have ordered over \$1 billion worth of ships and floating equipment from abroad for Canadian use.