

WATER RESOURCES

MACKENZIE RIVER SYSTEM—ALLOCATION OF USE—SUGGESTED MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Notice was taken by his Parliamentary Secretary of the question I asked last Wednesday, which involved several departments, but since the minister was in Yellowknife recently, and knows the facts, I am putting it to him. Will the minister assure the House that he will immediately convene a meeting with the governments of Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan to deal with the use of the waters of the entire Mackenzie River system, having in mind the imminent danger which threatens and the fact that by next spring the need to allocate the use of these waters will arise? Will the minister tell us whether he is now willing to have this question referred to a standing committee for discussion some time in the new year, as I have suggested to him?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, my colleague the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry and myself met last week with ministers from Alberta, and I know that my colleague has had talks with ministers from British Columbia. We are dealing actively with that problem but I wish to draw the attention of the hon. member to the fact that if the former government had been a little more careful—

[English]

Mr. Baldwin: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I asked a legitimate, reasonable question and I would appreciate an answer.

An hon. Member: You got a pretty good answer, too.

Mr. Baldwin: Is the government prepared to refer this matter to a committee, or it is afraid to do so?

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TRADE

SEMINAR ON DEVELOPMENT OF MARKETS IN UNITED STATES FOR ATLANTIC PROVINCES' PRODUCTS

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): I should like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce whether he is in a position to answer the question I put to him last week regarding the establishment of a business seminar in the Atlantic provinces to assist industry to develop greater markets in the United States.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I am writing the hon. member giving him a list of seminars, conferences and meetings of all kinds in the Maritimes in which my department has taken part in the last two years. This policy is a permanent one. I shall be studying, with the Minister of Regional Economic

Inquiries of the Ministry

Expansion and with my department's regional officers the need for the type of seminar the hon. member suggests, and if it appears desirable to do so we shall be delighted to take part.

Mr. Coates: Would the minister be willing to participate himself in an effective way in such a seminar in the Atlantic provinces?

Mr. Pepin: I should be delighted to receive an invitation.

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SHIPPING

STATIONING OF SEARCH AND RESCUE VESSEL IN SYDNEY AREA

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): My question is directed to the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister in a position to inform me of the latest developments in response to the urgent necessity for a search and rescue vessel being stationed in Sydney Harbour or its vicinity?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I am delighted to be able to tell the hon. member that the coastguard vessel *Wood* is now being renovated and crewed, and as soon as she has been fully equipped she will be placed in the search and rescue service in the general area of the gulf. The matter of where she will be stationed will be determined after we have decided where the vessel can best be employed, but she will be stationed wherever it is demonstrated it is best for her to be.

Mr. Muir: Is the minister aware that thousands of men who go to sea, as well as their families, have been waiting for this announcement for a long time? Is he also aware that his two predecessors ignored the pleas put forward by myself—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Muir: May I pose my question?

Mr. Speaker: I drew attention a few moments ago to the fact that we shall be running out of time in a short while. However, I will allow a supplementary to the hon. member.

Mr. Muir: May I ask the minister if I may, on behalf of all those concerned, thank and commend him and wish him and his family the happiest Christmas ever?

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AIRPORTS

TORONTO—OPTIONS ON SITES FOR NEW FACILITY

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): My question, too, is directed to the Minister of Transport. It has to do with the new site for the Toronto area airport. Have the minister's department and the provincial authorities yet