

[English]

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION****JAMES BAY AREA—GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has the government been informed that the chairman of the James Bay Development Corporation has been appointed mayor of the James Bay municipality with a mandate given by the provincial government for regional development, and is the federal government prepared to assist the area under the terms of federal regional development legislation?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, as to the appointment of the gentleman in question, I have no formal knowledge of it other than what is public knowledge, nor have there been any discussions between the government of Canada and the government of Quebec with regard to this region. As things stand at the moment, the region would not be entitled to special assistance under the Regional Development Incentives Act but, of course, Quebec is free at any time to make submissions to us with regard to the region. As of the present moment it has not done so.

**JAMES BAY AREA—CONSTITUTIONALITY OF QUEBEC DEVELOPMENT ACT**

**Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories):** Mr. Speaker, I too am happy to see the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development back at work. I wish him continued good health because I think his presence makes for a very interesting question period. Has the federal government decided to refer the James Bay region development act, passed by the Quebec National Assembly, to the courts of this land for determination as to its constitutional validity?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, this question is part of the application made by the Indians to the court and I think that one of the aims of their procedure is to determine whether the legislation passed by Quebec is constitutional. It would not be proper for me now to make further comments.

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**INDIAN AFFAIRS****JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—RESPONSIBILITY FOR JOINT ECOLOGICAL STUDY**

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of the Environment.

Could he say whether it is the federal government or that of Quebec which has the first responsibility for the joint ecological study made by both governments on the James Bay basin?

*Oral Questions*

[English]

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, personnel carrying out these studies are supplied by both levels of government and consultants are also being retained by both levels of government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Obviously there is widespread interest in this matter. Before going to the next subject the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Rocky Mountain. If there is time at the end of the question period we might return to this matter, but I have some doubts whether that will be possible.

**JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY TO INDIANS AFFECTED**

**Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for the purpose of clarification. Is it the position of the government that the government of Canada has no responsibility to the Indian people in the James Bay area on this question beyond the payment of some conscience money and, if not, what are the responsibilities recognized and accepted by the government?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, obviously this question is a bit startling because we accept all responsibilities which are ours under both the Indian Act and the act of 1912.

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[English]

**SHIPPING****DARLING REPORT RECOMMENDATION THAT COASTAL WATERS BE RESERVED FOR CANADIAN FLAG VESSELS—POSITION OF GOVERNMENT**

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, St. Valentine's Day seems to be an appropriate occasion upon which to ask the Minister of Transport about the Darling report which has been in the possession of his department for some two years.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Douglas:** I should like to ask the minister whether he has yet made any decision with reference to the recommendations in the report of the inquiry on the coasting trade of Canada and related maritime activity, particularly with reference to the recommendation that Canadian coastal waters be reserved for Canadian flag vessels. Has any decision been made in respect of this matter, since it is of tremendous importance to those on the east and the west coasts of Canada?

**An hon. Member:** Give us a sweetheart answer.

• (1510)

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I agree entirely with the hon. member and am anxious to have this report implemented. But before doing so I