

*Oral Questions*

to Prince Edward Island as an energy conservation measure, and in view of the government's willingness to develop a similar program with Nova Scotia, has the minister won from either of these provinces a commitment to participate in a maritime energy pool or an agreement to give priority to the construction of electrical power plants in the maritimes to permit the maximum economies of scale?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I think it would be premature to say that at the moment I have a commitment from the two provinces, or indeed from the three maritime provinces, with respect to a maritime power pool. I think I can say, though, without being unduly optimistic that there is a good deal of interest now among those three provinces in examining the benefits of a power corporation which might not only generate electricity and be involved in the transmission of electricity, but perhaps also purchase electricity from other provinces.

## POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING GULL ISLAND SITE

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister indicate whether there has been a reassessment of the position of the development of the Gull Island site so that energy could be developed and be of benefit to all the Atlantic region?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member will perhaps know already from my previous answer, this was a reference I made with respect to a power corporation. One of the purposes I have always seen for the Maritime Power Corporation was just that, as a mechanism for purchasing power from other provinces and, in particular, of course, power from the Gull Island development, perhaps in the order of 1,000 megawatts a year.

● (1430)

## REASON FOR FAILURE TO CHANNEL MORE FUNDS THROUGH HOUSING PROGRAM TO INSULATE HOMES TO CONSERVE ENERGY

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, in the announcement made originally in respect of insulation, which is concentrated to help Nova Scotia, I wonder whether the minister discussed with his colleague before making the announcement the fact that there is in existence right now and has been for five years a residential rehabilitation assistance program which provides for insulation and other things to conserve energy, and why are more funds not extended into that very excellent program?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** As the hon. member will perhaps have already noted, Mr. Speaker, the proposals we put forward were in respect of a grant program rather than a loan program.

[Mr. Howie.]

[Translation]

## INDUSTRY

## TEXTILES—REQUEST FOR ACTION TO END DUMPING BY UNITED STATES TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT

**Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Can he tell the House whether the recent massive lay-offs in the textile industry, more particularly in Quebec, will induce him to take immediate steps to counteract dumping from the United States?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, the matter is now under study. As the hon. member knows, last November we announced measures for the textile industry which were rather controversial. I am aware of the problem with regard to imports of certain fabrics from the United States. Still it has yet to be established that they constitute dumping. The department is now making an inquiry and we hope to act as soon as we have had a definitive report on the matter.

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[English]

## PUBLIC SERVICE

## REASON FOR PUTTING CERTAIN EMPLOYEES ON ALLEGED BLACKLIST

**Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General and is somewhat supplementary to one asked earlier by the hon. member for Central Nova. My understanding of the minister's answer was that he was somewhat familiar with the list that has been alleged, or at least the letter that his predecessor may have written about the list, but that those included in the list were subjected to security clearance because of access to sensitive information. I would like the minister to clarify his answer now to the House as to whether any persons included on such a list were there because they were given information which may be adverse to the security of the state should it be released?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, as far as current practice is concerned there is no such list in existence. What I was trying to explain to the House is that whenever a civil servant is appointed to a position where there is access to confidential information which ought to remain secure there is a security check carried out.

## REQUEST FOR REPORT ON PRIME MINISTER'S INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED BLACKLIST

**Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the government House leader. As recorded in *Hansard* for October 13, the Prime Minister indicated that on this matter of Walter Rudnicki and the extra-parliamentary opposition, he would inquire and