

Oral Questions

ried out but to allow the projects to proceed before the environmental studies are completed?

Mr. Trudeau: Is this a question in relation to general principle or is it in relation to James Bay, airports, or what? I am not certain.

Mr. Stanfield: It relates specifically to this situation.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Or is it on heavy water?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh,!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Stanfield: I apologize to other hon. members waiting to ask questions but I should like to point out that I asked the Prime Minister a perfectly serious question and I do not intend to be put down by the Prime Minister or by the hon. member for St. Boniface. I want to ask the Prime Minister whether he considers he is discharging his responsibilities to the Indians by simply having the government conduct an environmental study while at the same time allowing the project to proceed before the environmental study is finished.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: What are you doing, then?

Mr. Trudeau: We do not discharge our duties in that way. The environmental studies have been going on and, as the Minister of the Environment said, there has been a first report and there will be a further report. In the meantime, the Indians are before the courts of Quebec taking action to stop the project proceeding. I said a moment ago that this was done with federal support, with federal funds.

Mr. Nielsen: You are not discharging your responsibilities to the Indians.

Mr. Trudeau: I should like to know how the opposition would propose to deal with this particular responsibility in better ways than we have.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

WAR VETERANS ALLOWANCES—REQUEST THAT ACT OR REGULATIONS BE AMENDED TO ENSURE THAT PROMISED OLD AGE PENSION INCREASE NOT DEDUCTED

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. On Friday, January 19 I asked the minister this question:

Is the minister giving consideration to an amendment to the War Veterans Allowance Act or to the regulations under that act to make sure that when there is the promised substantial increase in the old age pension this will not be subtracted from the war

[Mr. Stanfield.]

veterans allowance but will result in an actual addition to the income of our war veterans?

May I ask the minister if the necessary action with respect to this matter has been taken?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the necessary action has been taken.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Can the minister say when it will be announced?

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): That is a matter of government policy, Sir, but it will be announced before very long.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Monday night?

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

WATER LEVELS IN GREAT LAKES—SUGGESTED CONTROL BY CREATING RESERVOIR IN LAKE NIPIGON AREA

Mr. B. Keith Penner (Thunder Bay): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. I should like to ask him whether he is aware of the scheme which has been proposed by Mr. Lorne Henderson, a member of the Ontario Legislature and chairman of the Ontario Select Committee on Land Drainage, in which he suggests that 14,000 square miles in the Lake Nipigon area of northwestern Ontario be flooded, thereby creating a huge reservoir in an effort to control the water levels in the Great Lakes?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, we will take a careful look at it. A reservoir in that area could not affect the lower lake levels for at least a year, and possibly two.

[Later:]

Mr. Penner: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Henderson is reported to be taking his committee to northwestern Ontario to examine this scheme. I should like to know whether the minister will make the services of his department available to us in meeting this committee in order to counteract their mad proposal?

Mr. Nielsen: Ask that question in caucus.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

POSSIBLE OPENING OF MILITARY COLLEGES TO WOMEN

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. Is it the intention of the government in the near future to open the three Canadian services colleges to young women wishing to make the armed services a career, and so make available to them the same very real advantages now available to young men?