

Oral Questions

review with the advisory council. This I did. At the same time I indicated that I would abide by its decision and that I would wait to see what kind of a report it would prepare. Once the report by the advisory council has been given to me and I see its contents, I will take what actions I think are necessary.

Miss Jewett: You promised.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe): Madam Speaker, while the President of the Treasury Board is in a mood to report on his various projects, it was one month ago today that I asked the President of the Treasury Board when the House would be seeing the much promised Crown corporations bill, the omnibus bill. The minister replied as follows, as reported in *Hansard* at page 8224:

I assure hon. members that very substantial progress has been made and that the bill will be brought forward in the very near future.

When will we see the bill?

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, I repeat what I have said in the past, that very substantial progress has been made indeed.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Thirty days?

Mr. Johnston: The matter is a very serious one and is one which deserves the widest consultation and maximum input from all interested parties. That is what we are doing. Again I repeat that I do hope to bring forward legislation for consideration by my cabinet colleagues at a very early date.

Mr. Clark: Have you heard from Allan MacEachen?

Mr. Beatty: Madam Speaker, the President of the Treasury Board has been promising for the last 13 months that the bill would be forthcoming in the very near future. Will the minister today flesh that out by giving us a date, or will he admit that the Minister of Finance has blocked his efforts to get the bill through cabinet?

Mr. Johnston: Madam Speaker, the Minister of Finance has been most co-operative with respect to all legislation that we have attempted to bring forth from Treasury Board.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Miss MacDonald: Stand up and take a bow, Allan.

METRICATION

INQUIRY RESPECTING TABLING OF COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Small Business. When will the government be tabling the overview report of the metric commission?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, I have not inquired about this recently. I will do so today and report back to the hon. member.

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[*English*]

MARINE TRANSPORT

NORTH SYDNEY, N.S. TO ARGENTIA, NFLD. FERRY SERVICE

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the multi-modal minister of transportation. Would the minister advise the House whether or not he has now rejected his own suggestion that the ferry service from Nova Scotia to Argentina, which occurs during the summers, be cancelled? Will he confirm hopefully that he has cancelled that suggestion and that the \$8 million or \$9 million in costs will continue to be spent on that, and that the Newfoundland government will not be asked to agree to losing that service in order to have money spent on other transportation facilities in Newfoundland?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I will attempt again to explain to my hon. friend what we are trying to do in Newfoundland—

Mr. Crosbie: I know what you are trying to do.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: You are trying to sink the island.

Mr. Pepin: —in terms of a new approach. Should the province agree to a reduction or an elimination of a service, it would not lose the money that would be saved in so doing.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): A new approach?

Mr. Pepin: It is in that context that the ferry from Argentina to Sydney—

Miss MacDonald: North Sydney.

Mr. Pepin: North Sydney was mentioned.

Mr. MacEachen: Flora's hometown.

Mr. Pepin: The other day in the committee I assured hon. members that this was not to be done this summer. However, it is an item for negotiation between ourselves and the government of Newfoundland.