

*Oral Questions*

fundamentally behind this approach, is the sheerest, crudest kind of politics. Isn't this a new attempt by the federal Liberal government to undermine the provinces and the old cost-sharing arrangement, on the backs, by the way, of sick people and students who need the money? They are the innocent victims. Is it not an attempt to get more political credit for the federal Liberal Party of Canada? Isn't that what is behind it?

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** They do not have any credit.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** No, that is not the point at all, Madam Speaker. The hon. member should know that in the proposals made to the provinces there is absolutely no reduction in the support for post-secondary education. There is absolutely no reduction in the field of medicare. Neither of these have been touched in our proposals. Even the premiers of the provinces when they released information on federal contributions to medical care and post-secondary education this past summer did not include the revenue guarantee as part of that contribution.

**Mr. Blaikie:** You did for five years. You have changed your tune now, and you want to get away with it.

**Mr. MacEachen:** It is true that we intend to eliminate the revenue guarantee, which was an adjustment made to the provinces in 1972 to compensate them for the unpredictability that had been created at that time in their minds because of tax reform. Surely it is reasonable ten years later to remove that kind of element from the federal-provincial situation?

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● (1130)

**CANADA POST****HOLIDAY POLICY FOR LETTER CARRIERS**

**Mr. Bud Bradley (Haldimand-Norfolk):** Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Labour I will address my question to the President of the Treasury Board. I have a recent directive from the Canada Post Corporation outlining the holiday policy in relation to letter carriers this coming summer. It also outlines the policy to be followed when hiring short-term summer replacements. The directive says in part:

These term employees are to be selected from the families of members of the Letter Carriers' Union of Canada bargaining unit.

I ask the minister, is this the standard policy of this government's Crown corporations and, if so, does he not feel this return to the practice of nepotism is definitely discriminatory, and in fact an embarrassment to the letter carriers?

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board):** Madam Speaker, I will be pleased to take notice of the question. The Canada Post Corporation does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Board. The personnel practices of

Crown corporations are not subject to Treasury Board control. However, I have noted the point raised by the hon. member and I will draw it to the attention of the responsible minister.

**HIRING POLICY OF CROWN CORPORATIONS**

**Mr. Bud Bradley (Haldimand-Norfolk):** Obviously the minister is not aware of the actions of Crown corporations under his jurisdiction.

**Mr. Blais:** It is not under his jurisdiction.

**Mr. Bradley:** My supplementary is for the Acting Prime Minister, Madam Speaker. Could the minister tell us if this is the standard hiring policy of the Crown corporations of this government?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I cannot give the hon. member the details on that subject. I would be glad to look into it for him, but I do not want to give him an answer on a subject which I have not looked at.

**Mr. Clark:** Why did you sign the budget, then?

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**REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT****MIRAMICHI RIVER DREDGING POLICY**

**Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal):** Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Transport. He will be aware of the dredging project which had been under way on the Miramichi for some little time, having been started only after substantial pressure had been brought to bear on the government. Unfortunately, because of bottom conditions, the dredging equipment called for in the original contract was inadequate and the project was subsequently called off. That area has been badly hurt in many ways, including the recent announcement by the government that CFB Chatham is being closed down, and it badly needs this project to continue. Will the minister tell the House if it is his intention to resume the project with the proper equipment and, if so, when?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I must admit that I am not up to the hon. member's information level regarding the Miramichi. I will inform myself and answer the question in more specific terms as early as I can.

**INCLUSION OF WHARF AREAS**

**Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal):** Madam Speaker, I would ask the minister, when he does that, to recognize the fact that in the original contract no allowance was made to dredge the wharf sites to the same depth as the river, which makes the project questionable in the minds of a good many people.

If it is his intention to resume the project, will the minister assure this House that the work will include the wharf areas so