

*Oral Questions***NATIONAL DEFENCE****PROPOSED RESEARCH CENTRE AT WINNIPEG—DELAY IN COMPLETING LAND PURCHASE AGREEMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence and is in regard to the defence research centre which is to be located in Winnipeg. Since the minister has had in his possession for approximately two months the land purchase agreement from the city of Winnipeg, I would ask the minister when the documents will be signed and returned to Winnipeg, along with payment for the land where the research base is to be located.

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that negotiations are in abeyance until further decisions are made.

Mr. McKenzie: A supplementary question. Last Friday the minister announced that it was going to take six months to a year to establish whether or not the base will be located in Winnipeg. Is he saying that he is asking the city of Winnipeg to hold this parcel of land until he makes up his mind what he is going to do with the base, and is he prepared to pay the taxes on that piece of property in the meantime until he makes a decision?

Mr. Danson: No, Mr. Speaker, I do not expect the city of Winnipeg to hold on all that time.

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FISHERIES**LOBSTERS—POSSIBILITY OF ADOPTING PROGRAM TO RESTORE DECLINING STOCKS**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. As the minister is aware, the catch of Nova Scotia's inshore lobster fishermen is down by some 50 per cent when compared with last year's. Since it is now reported that lobster larvae are scarce in the inshore waters of Nova Scotia and it is also obvious that the offshore lobster fishery has to be regulated much more than it has been up to the present time, would the minister consider the establishment of a Canadian program similar to one that was established some time ago in the state of Maine where female seed lobsters are returned to the sea after being caught and marked and the fisherman compensated for his loss, in order to assist in rehabilitating the declining lobster stocks along the coast of Nova Scotia?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, reports that I have had from the scientists in my department do not indicate that the offshore impact on the inshore fishery is the determining factor at the present time for the poor catch of the inshore lobster fishermen. There are other factors, including unusually cold water temperatures for the season, and also very severe winter

[Mr. Lang.]

conditions. However, the suggestion made by the hon. member, because of his experience, is one which I will look at very seriously; I think it may have some very positive implications.

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TRANSPORT**HALL REPORT ON PENSIONS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES—INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and I believe the Minister of Labour will be interested in it as well. On Friday, January 28, I asked the Minister of Transport a question relating to the report of Dr. Noel Hall on railway pensions which virtually throws the question of improving railway pensions back to the companies and to the government. The minister's reply was that the government would take a hard look at this report. Can the minister say whether the government is yet in a position to tell the House what it proposes to do about railway pensions in light of the Hall report?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker, we are not yet in that position. We are continuing to look at what is a very complicated matter.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the other part of my question on January 28 was whether the minister would take up with the CPR the particular recommendations made by Dr. Hall regarding CPR pensions, may I ask him whether he has been in touch with the CPR on this matter and, if so, what did the CPR say?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I have not yet been in touch with them. I would want first to look at the implications of the whole matter before I try to take a position on it with an outside body.

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CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD**DATE ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE**

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. Can the minister tell the House when the annual report of the Canadian Wheat Board for the last crop year will be tabled?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not know the date but I will ask the Canadian Wheat Board to inform the hon. member.