

Oral Questions

which is being made public by the Public Service Commission on an annual basis and also in appearances before the parliamentary committee.

If Treasury Board can also provide additional information to the hon. member when the estimates come, I will certainly be very happy to help; and I am sure my colleague will be very happy to make that information available. At the present time, these reports are being reviewed with individual departments by officials of Treasury Board.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, would the minister indicate why he feels it has been necessary to keep these annual reports secret? There is very real interest and concern that people in the public service, and the public generally, have in the leadership the federal government can provide in this area. Will the minister make a firm commitment that the reports will be made public? He shows no reluctance in issuing plans of action and making general statements public.

Will he give us that information, particularly because of the offhand remarks of his colleagues, including the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Employment and Immigration, about women being marginal or of secondary importance to the work force? What steps is the minister taking to clear up the very great disservice these ministers are doing the women of this country?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I think the greatest disservice that could be done, not only to the women of this country but also to the cause of women generally and the cause of honesty in politics, would be to make the kind of statement the hon. member has made about my three colleagues.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lalonde: I challenge the hon. member to indicate a single instance in which any of those three colleagues of mine have made any statement of the kind referred to by the hon. member. I hope the hon. member will stop peddling that kind of stuff, because I believe he is an honest man.

With regard to the question, the hon. member knows those documents are not under my control or responsibility. I will be glad to raise the matter with my colleagues. I think this matter should, indeed, be further examined and, if possible, I would be very glad to see those documents tabled or made available to a parliamentary committee when the secretary of the Treasury Board appears. I will explore this matter.

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INDUSTRY**CONSTRUCTION OF FLOATING DRY DOCKS**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce or the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. It arises from the growing sense of urgency about resolving the problem of the construction of floating dry docks on

[Mr. Lalonde.]

both the east coast and the west coast. Because there is a potential buyer—either the province of Nova Scotia or a Canadian shipping company—and because of the uncertainty which still surrounds the finalization of the sale, I wonder if the minister or his colleague could give the House an indication of the stage the government's plans have reached or the stand of the department involved with respect to replacing the floating dock, particularly at Halifax but on the west coast as well.

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, as I said some time ago, my department is carrying out a study on where best to assist the development of large and small dry dock facilities on the east coast. Until that study is completed, I really think I should not comment.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. This matter has been before the government for three or four years. In light of the urgency, will the minister indicate to the House when he expects to receive this report and when, having received the report, he expects to make a decision? I ask this question because some 1,400 jobs are directly involved at the port of Halifax.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, I expect the report very soon, and as soon as I get the report the decision will be made rather quickly thereafter.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REPORT ON BELGRADE REVIEW MEETING OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT**

Hon. Stanley Haidasz (Parkdale): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs when we in this House can expect a comprehensive report on the Belgrade Review Meeting of the Helsinki Final Act.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to say with precision, but the meetings ought to conclude within the next few days, although that is by no means certain. As quickly after that as it is possible to assemble a full and comprehensive report, I will be glad to make it available to hon. members in whatever is the most appropriate forum.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS**PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF YUKON**

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, based on a story in this morning's *Globe and Mail* indicating