

*Oral Questions*

projects would start immediately upon approval. I should point out to the hon. member that in the case of native bands and organizations, we are prepared to accept early applications so that we can get the projects started during the building season. If he would bring those applications to my attention, we will respond accordingly.

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**AGRICULTURE**

## NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION TO GOVERN LIVESTOCK SALES

**Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture regarding the need for prompt payment in Canada's total livestock industry. I am sure the minister will be acutely aware of the need for this in the aftermath of the McIntyre sale yard collapse in southwestern Ontario that has had repercussions all over western Canada, as have other failures. Can the minister indicate if he is now preparing some badly needed federal legislation that will require prompt payment of all Canadian livestock accounts throughout the country?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the bankruptcy he refers to took place in southwestern Ontario. One of my constituents was a very heavy loser in that bankruptcy. We are looking at ways and means of overcoming this. I am sure the hon. member remembers that when the Bank Act was amended, strong representations were made that we should not go that far but should only amend it to protect farmers or producers when a processor or meat packer went bankrupt. It appears now that the amendment should have been much broader. The hon. member for Lambton-Middlesex suggested a broader amendment to the Bank Act at that time, and he is making representations again along the same lines as the hon. member opposite.

I understand that the effects of this bankruptcy are widespread and not confined to southwestern Ontario but extend to the province of Alberta and other parts of Canada as well.

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[Translation]

**PETRO-CANADA**

## COMPATIBILITY OF POLICY WITH INCOME-CONTROL PROGRAM

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Considering the fact that the minister supported the plan to restrict wage increases to 6 and 5 per cent, I wonder whether he is aware that on the basis of government recommendations regarding controls, Petro-Canada is recommending rent increases of 25 per cent for its dealers. If so, could he inform the House how he intends to prove that the corporation's policy is compatible with the government's objectives?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, as you know, the guidelines for Crown corporations, including Petro-Canada, are that during the next two years, salaries of corporation employees may not be increased by more than 6 and 5 per cent. As for the point raised directly by the hon. member for Joliette, I must say that I am not aware of the existence of the increases to which he is referring. If he has any specific cases to refer to my attention, I should be happy to forward them to the corporation, and I would then ask the corporation's administrators to submit a report, which I will be happy to divulge to the hon. member.

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[English]

**EMPLOYMENT**

## DIRECT JOB-CREATION PROGRAM—POSITION OF NEW BRUNSWICK GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration and it is supplementary to the question of the hon. member for Fundy-Royal who finally showed his true colours. In devising the program, did the minister hold any discussions with the Government of New Brunswick to try to persuade it to supplement his very positive response, or are we to continue to see that government just wring its hands and shed crocodile tears, as did the hon. member for Fundy-Royal, for those areas of chronic high unemployment?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, it is quite clear that it is our hope and intention that, at this time of very serious difficulty in the Canadian economy, we can recruit and enlist the co-operation of the provincial governments. Not many of them have been too forthcoming in their efforts thus far. It is important to continue to try to bring them on board so that not only can we respond to the immediate employment problems in New Brunswick but also come to grips with the longer-term issue of restraining inflationary pressures in order to bring interest rates down, and thereby provide a base for long-term job creation in Canada.

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**INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION**

## DELAY IN APPOINTING CANADIAN COMMISSIONER

**Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. The minister must be aware of the need for a strong Canadian voice on the International Joint Commission when such crucial issues as the clean-up of the Great Lakes, the controversial ice boom in Lake Erie, and other water issues involving the boundary between Canada and the United States are being discussed. There are three American commissioners on the IJC and at present only two representing Canada. How long must this 20-