

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Later:]

Mr. McKinley: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. With respect, the Prime Minister answered the first part of my question, but I also asked to be informed when the government expects to be able to table the white paper.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member may have a supplementary but he will be recognized in a moment.

[Later:]

Mr. McKinley: A further supplementary question. The Prime Minister does not appear to want to answer my second question. I ask him whether he can inform the House why the preparation of the white paper was taken out of the hands of the Department of National Health and Welfare.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

POLLUTION

OIL—ACTION RESPECTING SITUATION
IN TORONTO HARBOUR

Mr. J. M. Forrestal (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Would the minister advise the House whether or not members from Toronto have been after him about the oil spill in Toronto harbour?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Later:]

Mr. Danson: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

Mr. Danson: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member opposite suggested that the members from Toronto were negligent in their duty.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Danson: I would suggest that matters that are regarded as national disasters in other areas are looked after by the city council in Toronto.

NATIONAL HARBOURS BOARD

RESIGNATION OF CHAIRMAN—
NEW APPOINTMENT

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the

Minister of Transport. In view of the resignation of Mr. Howard Mann, who I am sure everyone agrees performed valuable service as chairman of the National Harbours Board, can the minister say whether a new appointment will be made, and when?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I agree with the assessment made by the hon. member of Mr. Howard Mann. Incidentally, if the House so desires I will be pleased to table the letter of resignation and the reply.

With regard to the second part of the question, I am examining the possibilities, within the framework of the revision of ports policy, as to whether or not we should restore the National Harbours Board to full complement now or perhaps wait until such time as the new arrangement is put into effect.

[Translation]

HARBOURS

MONTREAL—MEASURES TO DEAL WITH
REDUCTION IN ACTIVITY

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Considering that there has been quite a heavy decline in traffic at the port of Montreal, I would like to ask the Minister of Transport whether he is considering taking strong action in the near future in order to remedy this situation which is disastrous for the city of Montreal—if he feels concerned by that situation—or whether he intends to do nothing about it as in the case of unemployment in Quebec?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

Mr. Valade: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Sainte-Marie on a point of order.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, my point of order. The first part of my question is acceptable, even though the second part is not and the minister—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.