

*Oral Questions*

## POSSIBLE TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICITY FROM PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, will the Prime Minister initiate a meeting with the Premier of New Brunswick, the Premier of Prince Edward Island, and the newborn Canadian Premier of Quebec? The problem is trying to get electricity from Quebec to Prince Edward Island, transmitted through New Brunswick. Will he initiate a meeting immediately so that the problem can be solved of getting cheap electrical energy from Quebec to Prince Edward Island, transmitting it through New Brunswick at cost?

**Mr. Speaker:** I appreciate the Hon. Member putting a question, but normally it is not necessary to put it twice.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I say to my hon. friend that it is a very important matter for Prince Edward Island where power rates are so high that they preclude the possibility of attracting industry. The energy component almost obviates the attractiveness of the Island to these investors. I thank the Hon. Member for raising this matter. It is very important. I understand there have been discussions among Premiers in this area. I have, both in writing and verbally, raised this with Premier Lee. I hope to be able to do so with the other Premiers affected, at an early moment. I share the concern raised by the Hon. Member. There is a strong element of unfairness when the energy component costs are so high that they prevent the building of industry.

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## NUCLEAR ENERGY

## REQUEST FOR PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO INDUSTRY

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It concerns the nuclear industry in Canada. Given the Progressive Conservative commitment to open government, to accountability of Crown corporations, to reviewing areas of significant government spending, and to respecting public opinion, can the Minister tell us whether the new Government intends to initiate a full parliamentary inquiry into all aspects of the nuclear industry in Canada, as the Progressive Conservative Government in 1979 intended to do?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the commitment made in 1979 to have a task force or parliamentary committee look into the nuclear industry. When I meet with the officials of AECL, which I will be doing in the next two weeks or so, I will discuss that option with them to see if it is still a valid arena in which to discuss the problems which our nuclear industry faces.

**Mr. Blaikie:** I would hope that the Minister would not be taking her orders from AECL in this respect.

## INDUSTRY'S ACCOUNTABILITY

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister again whether she will consider initiating a full parliamentary inquiry into the nuclear industry so that we can have some accountability from that industry with respect to the nuclear energy future that was imposed upon Canadians by the former Liberal administration. I would urge her to do that.

● (1450)

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated that I was giving consideration to reviving that concept. However, I wish to point out that there are a great many players in the nuclear game. One of the things I would do before taking it to our House Leader is find out whether or not the industry, in New Brunswick, Ontario or wherever, would find it a useful arena in which to have discussions.

**Mr. Blaikie:** It is not just the industry you should consult.

**Miss Carney:** Yes, there is a need to find out if that is a useful role to play. Otherwise, the problems may perhaps lie more in the marketing area.

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[Translation]

## TRANSPORT

## COMPLETION OF AUTOROUTE 50

**Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil-Papineau):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Transport). First of all, I would like to congratulate the Minister on his decision to meet with groups from the Laurentian area and especially those with concerns about transportation issues. There was a sizeable delegation from Argenteuil-Papineau which made representations to the Minister on two important priorities for the region. My question is: Now that he has had a meeting with the Quebec Minister of Transport on final construction of Highway 50, could the Minister inform the House what transpired at the meeting he had with the Quebec Transport Minister?

**Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of State (Transport)):** Mr. Speaker, we discussed the highway issue with Mr. Léonard—that is correct. However, the federal-provincial agreement on highways in Quebec expired in March 1984 and has yet to be renewed. If and when the agreement is renewed, we can then discuss with the Province, which after all is responsible for highways, what to do about the highway to which the Hon. Member for Argenteuil-Papineau is referring.