

*Oral Questions***ELDORADO NUCLEAR LIMITED**APPLICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF REFINING PLANT IN
ONTARIO—DATE OF APPROVAL

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): A question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Mr. Speaker. Has ministerial approval yet been given to the application by Eldorado Nuclear to build a new refining plant in Ontario?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lawrence: Would the minister indicate whether approval is expected, or can he give an undertaking that there will be an announcement concerning this matter prior to the House resuming in January?

Mr. Gillespie: I can give no such undertaking.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYSDECISION TO CANCEL TWO TRAINS AND ONE FERRY IN
NEWFOUNDLAND—ALLEGED BREACH OF AGREEMENT

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Will there be any further lay-offs by Canadian National in Newfoundland following the announcement on Friday that they were cancelling two trains, and laying off two crews, which seems to fly in the face of the understanding reached between the CN, the government of Newfoundland and the unions that there would be a freeze of present services in the province pending the findings of a commission of inquiry?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): I am not aware of the terms of the agreement to which the hon. member refers but I will look into the matter. I do not at the moment know of any further plans by the CN.

Mr. McGrath: While the minister is checking with the CN, could he inquire into the rationale behind a further decision of the railway company to withdraw one of the ferries connecting Newfoundland to the mainland of Canada, leaving only one ship to provide that service during the off-tourist season?

Mr. Lang: I am advised that the rail car offerings expected can be handled by the remaining vessel and that an additional one is therefore not required.

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NORTHERN CANADA POWER COMMISSIONCOMPARABILITY OF COST OF ELECTRICITY IN NORTH WITH
OTHER AREAS—POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF COMMISSION'S
OPERATIONS TO PRIVATE SECTOR

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern

[Mr. Jamieson.]

Development. Can the minister tell us whether he has had an opportunity of reviewing the recommendations of the task force on electrical energy costs in the north and, in particular, does he accept the statement that power bills paid by domestic consumers are generally not out of line with those paid in higher cost areas elsewhere in Canada, particularly in view of the comment by the Mayor of Inuvik to the effect that monthly power bills in the north can often exceed mortgage payments on the home?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): I am reviewing that report now. I did not accept the recommendations of the report in total. I am looking for other options which will relieve the impact of power rates in the north. All those options are not in the report.

Mr. Neil: In the Speech from the Throne it was stated, and I quote, that "all federal programs will be reviewed to identify government activities which could be transferred to the private sector without reducing quality of service to the public." Has the government reviewed, or does it intend to review, the activities of the NCPC to determine whether some of its activities could be transferred to the public sector?

Mr. Allmand: That suggestion has not been made to us by the people in the north and is not under review.

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AGRICULTUREALLEGED STATEMENT BY MINISTER UNDERWORLD INVOLVED
IN MARKETING OF MEAT—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Would the minister give us whatever documentation he has to support the validity of the statement that the underworld is involved in the marketing of beef in Canada?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I think the hon. member should go by the record. If the hon. member would refer to the tape I made at Edmonton and to the press comments afterward, he would find that a question was put to me by a number of farmers. What I said afterward would clear up any misconception the hon. member may have. I was referring to a crime investigation being carried on in the province of Quebec, and that evidence is available to anyone.

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[Translation]

AIRPORTPROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES IN NORTHWEST NEW
BRUNSWICK—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport what is becoming my traditional question of the end of the year, in the hope that