

and CUPW, will the Postmaster General issue a directive to all postmasters to adhere to the principle of minimizing the use of casual labour by offering extra hours and overtime to regular employees first?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, this fact was drawn to my attention by the union on Friday. I believe that the matter has been settled satisfactorily. It is part of the new contract which has yet to be signed. It has been ratified and we have been notified accordingly. Of course, we have not as yet signed the contract. However, in the interval, I have given instructions that we arrive at local decisions on what is a suitable number of hours of overtime that should be permitted to regular workers. It is not specific in the collective agreement. Needless to say, it should be limited by common sense. We hope that this can be arrived at in each individual post office through consultation.

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TRANSPORT

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FERRY SERVICE—REQUEST FOR REPORT OF LABOUR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. It relates to the disturbing information provided by the minister last Wednesday to my colleague, the hon. member for Malpeque. He indicated that no arrangement had been made or any agreement reached with respect to continuous ferry service between Prince Edward Island and the mainland during the ice season but more particularly during labour disputes. I ask the minister whether the communications committee set up by his predecessor last July, and composed of representatives of both labour and management in an attempt to maintain ongoing communication and work potential solutions with respect to this problem, is still in existence and is still meeting on the same basis as was then indicated, and when that committee might be presenting its report either to him or to the provincial government of Prince Edward Island?

● (1430)

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): I think the hon. member for Malpeque's question was particularly related to the labour disputes. While I indicated that we could not assure that this kind of problem would not occur again, it is true the matter is one of concern and is therefore the subject of a number of pieces of work.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I should like to direct attention specifically to the Marine East co-ordinating committee which was announced by the hon. minister's predecessor, now the Minister without Portfolio, a year ago July. The committee was to meet in the months of January, May and September and effect continuing communication on potential labour disputes which might result in the termination of a service which vitally affects the economic interests of Prince Edward Island. Is this work still going on and when can we expect a report from that committee?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I have not yet had a report on that matter but I will look into it.

Oral Questions

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION COMMISSION

ALLEGED DELAY OF DECISIONS—POSSIBILITY OF MEASURES TO IMPROVE OPERATIONS

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the new Minister of Communications.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Beatty: In asking her her inaugural question, I should like to extend my sincere congratulations and tell her I can say in all confidence that she will certainly be the best Minister of Communications the government has had since Pierre Juneau.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Beatty: Is the minister aware of the large number of complaints raised by people within the industry during the tenure of the former chairman of the CRTC that fairly routine procedures were left hanging by the CRTC for extremely long periods of time, much to the detriment both of the industry and of the public it serves? If so, what plans, if any, has the hon. lady to reorganize the workings of the CRTC in order to speed up routine decision making?

[Translation]

Hon. Jeanne Sauv   (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank hon. members for their good wishes and particularly the government members who show such a good spirit under the circumstances. I also thank the member who asked the question. I would be inclined to ask the parliamentary secretary, who fulfilled his duties so judiciously during the interim, to answer this question. Moreover I cannot give the genial answer the hon. member would expect. But however little I know of the matters of the department I am responsible for, I am aware that the CRTC is being reorganized and, of course, if there is any delay in its decision, I will do my best to expedite the procedures.

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[English]

ENERGY

INQUIRY AS TO PRIORITY OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The minister has stated that it will take some \$110 billion in the next decade to develop our energy resources in accordance with our needs. In view of the fact that the huge injections of cash into the economy which will be required will certainly contribute to inflation, and in view of the fact that there is a limitation on the technology, the supply of skilled people and the funds available to develop these projects, will the minister tell us whether he or the government have given any thought to developing a set of priorities? Has it considered which projects are to be developed, and in what order?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): We have indicated that the \$110 billion would be spread over many different projects. About half that