

• (1500)

Mr. Dinsdale: Has the Postmaster General approached the province of Alberta offering improved service to the province between Calgary and Edmonton and, in particular, has he offered the restoration of the six days a week mail delivery service?

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): No, Mr. Speaker, but I know the service provided by the courier is only a four days a week service. Our officials have met with the Alberta government and it is true, it is a four days a week service they now have. My officials met with the Alberta government officials to determine ways in which the Post Office can help them meet their actual and future requirements. The Alberta officials have shown interest in the service we can offer them.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

STATUS OF EXTRADITION AGREEMENT ON AIRCRAFT HIJACKERS BETWEEN CANADA AND CUBA

Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. What progress is being made as far as extradition arrangements between Canada and Cuba are concerned relative to aircraft hijackers?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the negotiations are still under way. It had been our hope that they would be concluded shortly. I will have to find out just what their state is at the moment. I know that an official draft is in the course of negotiation between the two countries.

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AGRICULTURE

CATTLE—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON LOSS OF ANIMALS IN TRANSIT LAST WINTER—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that approximately 1,400 cattle died in transit on the railways from the western provinces to Ontario last fall, has the minister investigated the matter and has he anything to offer by way of a solution to what the cattle breeders describe as a national disgrace?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we looked into this some weeks ago, in fact, some months ago. It is true that last winter was an unusually difficult winter with regard to the incidence of certain diseases and climatic conditions. We hope we can find a basis on which the shippers, the transportation companies and, indeed, the government regulations can be reconciled to improve the situation in the coming year.

Mr. Noble: Will the minister take the necessary measures to avoid a repetition of these extensive losses of valuable livestock in the approaching shipping season?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, we are now working on an urgent basis in that regard, but no one can guarantee that we will not have severe weather next winter or that there will not be another outbreak of some of the diseases.

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[Translation]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

POWERS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT—ALLEGED REPRESENTATIONS FROM QUEBEC MINISTER OF FINANCE

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

In view of the statements of the Quebec Premier that the Canadian government has too much spending power, can the minister indicate to the House whether he has recently received representations to that effect from the Quebec Minister of Finance?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

ONE-CORRIDOR CONCEPT FOR HIGHWAY AND PIPELINES—GOVERNMENT POSITION—APPROVAL OF HIGHWAY ROUTE BY ENERGY BOARD FOR PIPELINES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Do the minister and the government still favour the concept of pipelines and highways through the north using one corridor and that authorizations relating to pipelines will be determined by the National Energy Board?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Naturally, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Stanfield: In view of the fact the government has decided to proceed post-haste with the construction of a highway through the north, I wish to ask the minister whether the National Energy Board and, in fact, the government, have approved the route as suitable for a pipeline corridor?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the construction of highways, there is no need to ask the advice of the National Energy Board. The construction of highways in the north is the responsibility of my department, just as the choice of the corridor will be.

As for granting the permit for building the pipeline, the choice of the company or the group that will perform the work will be made by the National Energy Board.

With regard to the northern territories, they are the responsibility of my department.