

Oral Questions

Hon. Mary Collins (Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister Responsible for Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. colleague knows, the work which that committee did was excellent and the report has now gone to the Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs which has been hearing witnesses on it.

We will obviously await the recommendations of that committee. Our own department is reviewing the recommendations, as will other departments as it has implications for them as well.

Once this process is completed I hope we will have in place a good process by which we can evaluate the requirements for future bases. Until that process is in place, the minister has already indicated that there would be no base closures until that matter is finalized.

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PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. David Bjornson (Selkirk—Red River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the President of the Treasury Board.

As the minister knows, the Minister of Public Works brought forward a submission to refurbish St. Andrew's lock and dam and the submission was put over for further review. The minister also knows that the most recent safety report on the bridge states that the best case scenario is that the bridge would have to be closed by the end of this calendar year if not sooner.

With the greatest respect, I would like to ask the minister, what further review is necessary, what time-frame has been assigned this review and when will this issue once again be reviewed by Treasury Board?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for his question. I appreciate his concern.

We are reviewing the over-all program of public works. In the absence of the Minister of Public Works I would like to say that this particular department is monitoring very attentively the conditions of the structure and it is carrying out the emergency repairs as they are needed.

That being said, we are also aware that there will be ongoing discussions with the Government of Manitoba and they will discuss the future of this facility.

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WESTRAY MINE

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister of energy and it concerns the Westray mine.

● (1450)

Given that of the thousands of pages of documents tabled in this House, the only ones referring to a report by and for the federal government relate to the so-called 18-hour report, and given that there were a number of requests filed through access to information for the release of materials on the federal role in the Westray mine, will the minister assure the House that any information released will automatically be tabled in the House or with the Clerk of the House if the House is not in session?

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Mr. Speaker, once again there seems to be some implication that the CANMET report was not a significant report. The CANMET report surely was significant because it reviewed at least three major technical papers having to do with whether this mine was feasible or not.

In terms of tabling information we are, of course, prepared under the Access to Information Act to look at whatever is available.

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Mr. Speaker my supplementary question is for the same minister.

It is rather interesting that there is such heavy emphasis put on the CANMET report, when of the approximately 1,000 pages which were tabled, a mere nine concerned the CANMET report.

Given that Justice Richard, appointed by the Nova Scotia government to examine the Westray mine disaster, has indicated that he does not have jurisdiction to examine the federal government's role at Westray, will the minister explain what the process will be to allow for a full examination of the role of senior public servants opposed to the mine, the involvement of the Minister of