

*Oral Questions*

Will the minister indicate what progress has been made to ensure that Canadian engineering will be used in future large-scale engineering projects in the far north?

**Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is quite correct. There was considerable concern felt when the contract let by Imperial Oil for the Taglu plant went to the Fluor Company. As a result the government has, therefore, decided to clarify its Canadian participation policy in the key area of engineering and project management by setting an objective that such services must be carried out by firms which are beneficially owned or controlled by Canadians, or else performed or serviced by Canadians, unless it is clearly demonstrated that the necessary capacity does not exist in Canada. We feel that the appropriate figure should be at least 90 per cent. Most of the work should be done here, in Canada.

**Mr. Andre:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify whether this matter will be put in the form of guidelines or in the form of legislation; and, if there are guidelines, is the minister prepared to table them in the House, or table them as soon as they are available?

**Mr. Buchanan:** Mr. Speaker, there is an inter-departmental committee, chaired by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, to which an application for work of this nature should be referred and the committee will make the decision on it.

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**TRANSPORT**

AREA OF APPLICABILITY OF FREEZE ON RAILWAY LINE  
ABANDONMENT—GOVERNMENT ACTION IN CONNECTION  
WITH ESQUIMALT-NANAIMO LINE

**Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. On July 18, replying to my question, the minister stated that he believed the railroad abandonment freeze applies to all western provinces. My question is this. What action can the government take when a rail line, such as the Esquimalt-Nanaimo rail line on Vancouver Island, is abandoned, contrary to the government's stated policy?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, when I answered the hon. member's question, I said that I believed the policy applied to all western provinces, including B.C. I ought to clarify. I have learned that it does not include B.C.; it includes only Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

[Mr. Andre.]

• (1150)

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN  
VANCOUVER—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON ADMISSION OF  
DELEGATES AND HOLDING OF CONFERENCE

**Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of the answer given Monday to the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands that preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlement in Vancouver next year will continue and in light of the reaction of the United Nations to Canada's postponement of the Toronto conference, will the minister now say what is the government's intention on admission of delegates to the Vancouver conference, keeping in mind that delay similar to that in the Toronto decision will put Canada in another embarrassing position and place Vancouver in a very difficult financial position in relation to the ongoing development done at the urging of the federal government.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the situation is simply this. Preparations for the conference in Vancouver are going ahead. There has been no balk in that respect. That was stated by myself in the House and I am happy to confirm it today. With regard to the admission of members of the PLO, I have stated elsewhere the situation. It is properly a matter for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, but I think it ought not to be put in context with regard to this question. The government has decided that members of the PLO who are non-terrorists will be admitted to Canada under ministerial permit for attendance at the invitation of reputable Canadian organizations or at UN conferences.

**Mr. Clarke:** Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary question to the Secretary of State for Urban Affairs. Is it still the view of the minister that the 1976 conference in Vancouver is viable? Also, does the government plan to carry on with preparations for the conference in Vancouver in spite of the withdrawal of the urban demonstration program and in view of the answer of the Secretary of State for External Affairs?

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, not only are plans going ahead, but they are being accelerated to the extent they should at this stage of the preparations for that conference within the parameters indicated by my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

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[Translation]

**DISASTERS**

FEDERAL AID TO VICTIMS OF TORNADO AT  
SAINT-BONAVENTURE

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

With reference to the joint motion introduced earlier by the hon. member for Drummond and the hon. member for