

*Oral Questions*

Prime Minister really said that the final slotting of civil servants and the signing of the minutes did not occur until after the cabinet had agreed on wage and price guidelines for Canadians?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, there is a process for the determination of the salary ranges of senior civil servants and the process was explained by the Prime Minister yesterday. The cabinet decides as to the ranges. One must look at the record of the particular individual, to determine whether he is at the bottom or top of the range. It is a process which continues every year. There was no variation in it this year and there was no need to vary it.

**Mr. Nystrom:** When was it decided? That is all I am asking.

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**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**

NEW BRUNSWICK—SUGGESTION PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO FEDERAL EXPENDITURES ON HIGHWAYS IN NORTHERN PART OF PROVINCE

**Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche):** Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

**Mr. Harquail:**—first, may I thank you for your courtesy and thank all hon. members for the courtesy they showed me this morning. May I direct my question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion? Could he inform the House if it is still federal government policy that DREE money expended on highways in New Brunswick should, as a matter of priority, be spent in northern New Brunswick?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the hon. member on his election and also for joining us in this House. I want to assure him of my full cooperation and of the special consideration I will give his representations.

As for the particular subject of his question, it is with pleasure that I can assure him that it is precisely one of the concerns and priorities of the government and of my department to see that access ways and highways in northeast New Brunswick be improved as rapidly as possible. To this end, we are currently pursuing intensive negotiations with the government of that province to sign an agreement for carrying out the project that is of concern to you.

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[English]

**ENERGY**

SYNCRUDE PROJECT—ADEQUACY OF DEVICES TO MONITOR POLLUTION

**Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Is he satisfied with the adequacy of the devices used to

[Mr. Nystrom.]

monitor pollution around the Syncrude project in the Athabasca oil sands?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that the hon. gentleman asked me whether we are satisfied with the pollution devices around the Syncrude project?

**Mr. Gillies:** That is right.

**Mr. Gillespie:** Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to check into this information. I am not familiar with the pollution problem around the Syncrude project, but will check and obtain the information for the hon. gentleman.

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**TRANSPORT**

DREDGING—POSSIBILITY OF NATIONALIZING INDUSTRY

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Since the minister is unable to receive more than one bid on various dredging jobs, in particular at Île d'Orleans, Cape-de-la-Roche and South Baymouth, and since the bids which he has received are away out of line with departmental estimates, does the minister plan to nationalize this particular industry? If not, why not?

● (1140)

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, there are a number of alternatives which we will want to examine thoroughly. One is the opening of dredging to more extensive competition than has existed in the past. We will, of course, have to look at the alternative of doing some of the work ourselves if we are not satisfied with the results that can be obtained otherwise. I would not rush to that solution if other solutions were more satisfactory.

**Mr. Paproski:** Is it the intention, for example, to make Public Works the prime contractor and then sub-contract these particular dredging jobs?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, it is a little hard to say who will do the job until we decide whether the job will be done at all.

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**CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**

PROPOSED ABANDONMENT OF LIVERPOOL TO YARMOUTH SERVICE—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION AND DETAILS OF BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I, too, have a question for the Minister of Transport. On October 16 I asked the minister whether he would investigate the proposal to discontinue CNR rail service between Liverpool and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. He promised to investigate this matter. In view of the public interest shown along the south shore, can the minister now reply to this question?