

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

officials of Polymer about the reduction in the work force. The company has set up an employment centre to work with other agencies and be of assistance in helping those men who have been laid off to find other work. I might also say that the officials have advised me that the action of the government in bringing in the Employment Support Act will be helpful to Polymer in its employment difficulties.

**Mr. Cullen:** In the ordinary course of events, corporations in difficulty do not declare dividends and in fact often operate at a loss for a short time. Is the government prepared to allow this option to Polymer if it means saving jobs?

**Mr. Richardson:** Well, Mr. Speaker, that question is hypothetical.

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**INDUSTRY****CLOSING OF RESEARCH FACILITIES AT CELANESE, SHAWINIGAN, DOW AND POLYMER—SUGGESTED TRANSFER TO GOVERNMENT SERVICE**

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Supply and Services. In view of the partial and in some cases complete disbanding of research departments recently at Celanese, Shawinigan, Dow and now Polymer, which will be difficult to reassemble once shut down, would the government take some initiative to keep such research departments active in Canada and switch them from Industry to government service?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, this does not come within my direct area of responsibility but inasmuch as it concerns Polymer I will certainly take note of it.

**IMPERIAL OIL—PROPOSAL TO MOVE OPERATIONS FROM MANITOBA**

**Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Will the Minister of Supply and Services also take into consideration the proposal put forward by Imperial Oil to move its entire Manitoba operation to Edmonton?

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**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS****SUFFIELD MILITARY BASE—REPORT OF WILDLIFE SERVICE SUGGESTING USE AS GRASSLAND PARK—REQUEST FOR TABLING**

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for the environment. Has the minister seen the report of the Canadian Wildlife Service recommending that because of its ecological uniqueness the Suffield military base be used as a grasslands park, and is the minister supporting this recommendation in the current debate on the matter?

• (12:10 p.m.)

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Wildlife Service has been working very closely with the Department of National Defence regarding the ecological aspects of the Suffield area. I have seen the reports. The proposal is that areas with unique characteristics will be preserved and not damaged in any way by activity there.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the area is the home of several threatened species—

**Mr. Jamieson:** Tories.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Conservatives—in Alberta? I suggest that comment displays the ignorance of the hon. member on many matters. In view of the fact that the area is the home of several threatened species of wildlife, and keeping in mind the fact there are other military areas such as Shilo available for training, will the minister table the report of the wildlife branch so other members and the people of Canada can be enlightened on this matter?

**Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, we will be prepared to table any information received as a result of the surveys by the Canadian Wildlife Service. Perhaps the Minister of National Defence would like to say a word on this matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that we are running short of time and I notice a number of members who have been trying to ask questions for a few days. I think they should be given an opportunity to do so, particularly the hon. member for St. John's West.

[Later]

**Mr. Dinsdale:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I did not want to encroach upon the time of other hon. members seeking to ask questions during the question period, but I noticed that the Minister of National Defence was anxious to make a statement on the matter I raised earlier. I should not like him to be frustrated over the weekend because he did not have an opportunity to do so.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The minister can make that statement now with the unanimous consent of the House.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I wanted to point out to the hon. member that the facilities at Shilo are not equivalent in size to the facilities at Suffield and therefore it is not an alternative.

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**URBAN AFFAIRS****ST. JOHN'S, NFLD—INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING BLACKHEAD ROAD URBAN RENEWAL SCHEME**

**Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs concerning an urban renewal scheme