

*Inquiries of the Ministry*PROPOSED JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT—  
APPLICATION OF NAVIGABLE WATERS  
PROTECTION ACT

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Is the Minister of Transport making a careful study of the James Bay project in light of the provisions of the Navigable Waters Protection Act, since this aspect of the matter clearly comes under federal jurisdiction?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** In a general way I think I can answer yes. But, basically, the act comes into play only when there is an application. I would have to inquire whether there has been such an application, but to my knowledge there has not.

PROPOSED JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT—  
PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF INDIANS

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** A supplementary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Bearing in mind the statement the Minister of the Environment made to the effect that various government departments were looking into the ramifications of the James Bay project and in view of the fact that the minister did not mention the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, can the hon. gentleman tell us whether his department is bearing in mind the need to preserve the rights of the Indians living in this area and assure their welfare?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are following closely the negotiations that have been taking place between the Indians of Quebec and the provincial government. We are in constant consultation with the Quebec Indians Association and we shall intervene in due course.

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## CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

## RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Considering the great interest shown by the Canadian people for the activities of the Joint Committee on the Constitution and considering that, for several reasons, this committee was unable to submit its final report to the House during the last session, would the Prime Minister be willing to reconstitute this committee so that it may present its recommendations during the current session?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that the leader of the House has indicated his intention to try to get the opposition parties to agree to the reconstitution of this committee so that it may present its report.

[English]

## TAXATION

REASONS FOR REMISSION OF SALES TAX TO GREAT  
CANADIAN OIL SANDS LIMITED

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the President of the Treasury Board arising out of an Order in Council passed under the terms of section 17 of the Financial Administration Act in accordance with which \$6 million was remitted to Great Canadian Oil Sands Limited as a remission of part of the sales tax paid by that company between 1963 and 1967 when the law required that it should be paid. I should like to ask the President of the Treasury Board, who was one of the two ministers who requested this Order in Council, whether he can tell us the reason today for this generosity toward this corporation or whether he will undertake to make a statement explaining these reasons on an early occasion?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** I cannot recall the details but I will undertake to ascertain what they are and respond in the House.

**Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca):** Would the President of the Treasury Board be willing to table the report upon the basis of which this decision to remit sales tax to Great Canadian Oil Sands Limited was made? Would he be willing to table that report in the House?

**Mr. Drury:** I do not think there was a report in a form which would enable it to be tabled. I will find out.

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## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

RELEASE OF YVES GEOFFROY FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
PENITENTIARY—ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs a question which was referred to him yesterday by the Solicitor General. It refers to the subject of passports. Can the minister tell us, first, whether Geoffroy possessed a passport and, second, whether it was issued prior to his release from the penitentiary or later?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I did take notice of the question asked by the hon. gentleman yesterday. Our records show that no passport has been issued to Geoffroy in his own name. A search of the files in the passport office conducted by the RCMP subsequent to Geoffroy's escape from custody—

**An hon. Member:** Release.

**Mr. Sharp:** —indicated that a passport was acquired for him earlier under an assumed name by the submission of forged documents. The hon. gentleman asked about the guarantor. The signature of the guarantor appears to have been part of the forgery. The matter is now in the hands of the police.