

Inquiries of the Ministry

Has the minister met recently with the premier of Quebec to discuss the economic and social development of eastern Quebec? If so, has a date been decided upon for signing the agreement which has once again been negotiated between Ottawa and Quebec City?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I have been meeting with the premier of Quebec, I had several talks with him and I have reason to hope that the agreement will be signed this week.

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[English]

FISHERIES**SWORDFISH—IMMEDIATE AID TO INDUSTRY**

Mr. Elmer H. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Can he tell us whether there is any immediate aid contemplated for the Nova Scotia swordfish industry?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Not directly, Mr. Speaker. However, the federal government has been working closely with the provincial government in this connection and alternative fisheries have been explored with a view to those fishermen finding employment in those other fisheries.

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[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**ALLEGED INFILTRATION BY UNDERWORLD INTO FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice with respect to the public statement made recently by the director of the Quebec Provincial Police, Mr. Saint-Pierre, to the effect that the underworld had infiltrated the federal administration to corrupt its officials. Did the minister take that statement seriously, does he intend to investigate the matter, or does he reject the allegations contained in that statement?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): I am not responsible for national security, Mr. Speaker, and the question should be directed to my colleague the Solicitor General.

Mr. Valade: I shall put the question to the Solicitor General—

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[English]

BAIL REFORM ACT**INQUIRY AS TO PROCLAMATION**

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact that the Bail Reform Act was passed in March of this year, why has the government not proclaimed it? Is it because of pressure from the police chiefs?

[Mr. Cyr.]

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Not at all, Mr. Speaker. At the uniformity conference on criminal law held between my deputy minister and all the other deputy ministers of the Departments of Justice and Attorneys General of the provinces it was decided that we now had the manuals of instruction for police, magistrates and provincial judges in a form that we hope to be able to proclaim that act on January 1 next.

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COMMUNICATIONS**IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANS-CANADA COMPUTER NETWORK**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications and it provides me with an opportunity to congratulate him on his recent appointment to that responsible position. Arising from the recommendation of the Science Council of Canada for the establishment of a trans-Canada computer communications network, what action is the government taking to implement this recommendation, particularly to offset the growing influence on this important area of communications from powerful foreign competition?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of Communications): As the hon. member knows, Mr. Speaker, there is a computer communications task force at work, and the recommendations of the Science Council are part of the input to that task force along with recommendations from the academic community, industry, consumers and so on. The Science Council report will certainly be taken into consideration by the task force.

Mr. Dinsdale: In view of the fact that several provincial governments are claiming priority in this field of communications, is the minister in touch with these governments on this important subject and are these contacts at the ministerial level?

Mr. Stanbury: Yes, there have been continuing discussions with provincial governments, Mr. Speaker, but there has been no battle over jurisdiction in this field. I think there is every promise of agreement, and the discussions are continuing.

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TAXATION**ESTATE TAX—PROPOSED FEDERAL ABANDONMENT—RESPONSE TO PROVINCIAL REQUESTS FOR DELAY**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Could the Minister of Finance please advise the House what answer he gave to the provincial treasurers who sought a delay of one year in the tax change provisions by which he was cancelling the estate tax? If that answer has been given, what is it and are there any other adjustments to the proposals as a result of any decision in that regard?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the matter is still under consideration. Although we