

authorities and agencies will take appropriate action so that this project can be accomplished without further delay and Quebecers can use natural gas within the proposed time frame, that the project be completed during 1981. I count on the full co-operation of the Quebec government in this matter.

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[English]

CIVIL DEFENCE

REQUEST FOR NEW EMPHASIS ON POLICIES AND INCREASED BUDGET

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the minister responsible for planning and policy regarding civil defence, specifically the Prime Minister in this case.

In view of the concerns expressed by the Prime Minister, by the Leader of the Opposition and, indeed, by the Prime Minister of Japan, that we are entering a dangerous decade fraught with instabilities and deteriorating super power relations, given the prediction by a U.S. congressional committee that in the event of a nuclear attack on United States targets only, there would be up to two million casualties in Canada, and recognizing the acceleration of civil defence planning among those nations who pose a threat, as well as among our allies, is the Prime Minister prepared to place a new emphasis on civil defence policies and planning and increase the budget for civil defence in Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I have not had notice of the question. I am periodically briefed on the state of our civil defence. I know the structure is in place and I know that the provincial and municipal authorities, which are essential to the setting up of this structure, are co-operating. I have no cause now, nor have I received a request, to believe that there is need for increased funding. But I will look at the suggestion of the hon. member and make a decision on that basis.

Mr. Wenman: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I accept the Prime Minister's response and anticipate a positive investigation. Specifically, I think he will find that the structures, while they might be in place, are decentralized to the point of chaos and that, in fact, the budgets have been decreased substantially over the past few years.

● (1150)

In view of the fact that the Soviet Union spent an estimated \$65 billion on civil defence in the last ten years, that the Chinese possess a tunnel network capable of sheltering most city populations in a few minutes, that the French Senate called this week for urgent construction of atomic shelters because of heightened risk of nuclear war, and even United States cities are formulating contingency plans for the evacuation of inhabitants of their major cities, and in view of the reality that Canada has no shelter policy for Canadians, will the Prime Minister inform the House what measures are

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planned for Canadian cities in the event of a nuclear crisis and, in particular, for cities like Vancouver that sit in the shadow of military and industrial targets at close proximity in Seattle?

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, I will see if there is not a report which can be released and which may perhaps contain an update of the situation in civil defence. The hon. member complains about its decentralization character. Of course, he is aware—because of his interest in it—that this is the very nature of civil defence, that it must be decentralized. It has been structured on that basis to ensure that in the event of disruption of any one centre, the other centres can continue to operate and carry out their duties.

In a case of the government itself, a former prime minister, the Right Hon. John Diefenbaker, had constructed at Carp, not far from Ottawa, an area wherein the government could be carried on. There is provision there for not only the Governor General but the Prime Minister to remain in residence. I had the pleasure of visiting that underground complex some years ago.

Mr. Cossitt: Is there a pool and an \$80,000 Cadillac?

Mr. Trudeau: I will see if we can make room there for the hon. member for Leeds-Grenville, who certainly would be a very pleasant companion in such a place.

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FISHERIES

NON-RATIFICATION OF U.S.-CANADA EAST COAST TREATY

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Madam Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, who certainly knows how to talk tough to the provinces when that is required. I wonder if he is prepared to manifest the same degree of toughness with the Americans, now that it seems evident they have shelved for this year ratification of the east coast treaty.

My question to the minister is, in my estimation, no longer hypothetical: what steps is the government taking to protect the interests of the Canadian fishermen on the east coast of Canada in the absence of ratification of the treaty by the U.S. Senate? What steps is the government taking to ensure that these very important stocks, specifically the scallop stocks, are protected from the evident overfishing now taking place by the Americans?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, no later than yesterday morning I was discussing this issue with the American ambassador who was paying the usual courtesy visit. We reviewed this whole matter.

Also my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, informed me yesterday that in his first meeting with Secretary of State Muskie he had raised this very issue. The Canadian government's interest has been very clearly indicat-