

private, to the judge conducting the inquiry and to counsel and staff involved, relating to the possible appointment of some people with the authority to conduct a similar inquiry under the auspices of the federal government itself?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I think it would be improper for me to communicate with the chairman of the commission. As I just indicated, I have had discussions about this question with the solicitor general of the province of Quebec.

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● (1430)

HEALTH

STUDY OF RELATIONSHIP OF CHRONIC BRONCHITIS, SMOKING, AIR POLLUTION AND INDUSTRIAL OCCUPATIONS IN OTTAWA AND SUDBURY—REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF REPORT

Mr. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the government sponsored a study into the relationship of chronic bronchitis, smoking habits, air pollution and working in industrial occupations in Ottawa and in Sudbury? If so, when will the government release this report?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, some reference has been made by the CBC to a so-called secret report. This is not the first time the CBC has mentioned a secret report that has been public, sometimes for many weeks. Sometimes the reports even have been tabled in this House. In this particular instance a survey was conducted by the Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine of the University of Ottawa. This was funded by the health grants program of the federal government for the Ottawa survey, and by a provincial government grant for the Sudbury survey. This was not in any way a federal survey.

Preliminary findings of the Ottawa survey were made public last summer at the meeting of the International Epidemiology Association in Brighton, England—I cannot understand why the CBC was not there—and will appear in the form of a scientific article in the December 6 issue of the Canadian Medical Association Journal. I understand that a final detailed report is nearing completion and will be released by mid-December. This report was never suppressed by the federal government for the good reason that it does not belong to the government but rather to the researcher who made the survey.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

MINISTER'S POSITION ON POLLUTION STANDARDS FOR SYNCRUDE PROJECT

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment if I could get the attention of the minister. It goes back to the Syncrude project and the problem of pollution in connection with that project. There was a report on Saturday

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that the Alberta Minister of the Environment, Mr. Russell, is adamant that the 287-ton figure for pollution at that site will not be changed. In view of the fact that the suppressed index contained in the report to the Alberta government equated those levels with an environmental legacy that would pale Sudbury and the San Bernadino mountains of Los Angeles, and in view of the minister's own study of the environmental impact would the minister now give this House some assurance that she does not accept the 287-ton figure? Can she also give the House some assurance that we will be going back to the 40 tons that her original report provided for and recommended?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of the Environment for Alberta did not say exactly what the hon. member is reporting. He said he was looking at the situation. As to the amount that could be allowed, I think the minister is taking into account the data he has in order to say that the level is acceptable. We are looking into the situation and are studying the effects of the emissions in the atmosphere from the development of the tar sands. I can assure the hon. member that because the federal government is involved in the tar sands, through Syncrude, the effects on the environment will fall within the policy we have established for ourselves and which we would hope the government of Alberta will want to follow.

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ENERGY

SYNCRUDE PROJECT—MATTERS REMAINING TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH ALBERTA—REASON FOR FAILURE OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO REPORT

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Dealing with the Syncrude project, would the minister advise what it is that remains unnegotiated between the province of Alberta and the federal government. Would he specify whether it is matters of environment which remain unnegotiated and whether that is the reason we do not have a report from the board of directors. Furthermore, would he advise why \$100 million has been spent by the government and can he give us any assurance that this \$100 million has been protected in view of the fact that we do not have anyone on the senior board of directors.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the federal government is on the management committee. That information was given in an answer to a question last week. As to the first part of the hon. gentleman's question, I answered that last week and the record will give him that information. On the last part, in respect of why we are spending \$100 million with no one on the board of directors I can tell him we are confident we can conclude the agreement. We are on the management committee. I think we can fully protect the federal interest.