

particularly in light of the poor performance of that department. In my opinion, the same thing applies everywhere else.

Under those circumstances, I can assure the Hon. Member that there will be changes, corrections and positive recommendations to safeguard the interests of Canadians and show more fairness to those who want to do business with the new government.

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[English]

#### AUDITOR GENERAL

##### RECOMMENDATION THAT AUDITS BE REPORTED ON COMPLETION DATES

**Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity):** My question, Mr. Speaker, is addressed to the President of the Treasury Board. Of recent years Parliament has passed a number of laws to facilitate the work of the Auditor General—the Auditor General Act of 1977, and more amendments to the Financial Administration Act which set up the Comptroller General's office. Will the Minister say if he is now prepared to bring in legislation to give effect to the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation that the Auditor General be empowered to report audits to Parliament on a completion date basis, instead of only annually, so that problems could be addressed and corrected more quickly?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, that is a question I have been discussing with the Auditor General. Yes, it is correct that we have had several meetings. This question is certainly something that we are looking at very closely. Hopefully I will be in a position to respond favourably to the request of the Auditor General in a very short period of time.

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#### NORTHERN AFFAIRS

##### YUKON NORTH SLOPE DEVELOPMENT—ESTABLISHMENT OF SCREENING COMMITTEE

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I would like to ask the Minister about development on the North Slope of Yukon, which is one of the most environmentally sensitive areas anywhere in Canada. Could the Minister tell the House when the permanent screening committee, which is to review all development proposals, will be established, and who will be serving on that committee, so that all proposals that are submitted can be fully and adequately reviewed?

**Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. As he will know, there has been a meeting recently in that part of the country dealing with the proposal. The interim committee idea was not adopted and

#### Oral Questions

therefore we are moving to the permanent screening committee. The membership of that committee is not yet filled and, when it is, of course I will advise the House and the Hon. Member.

#### CARIBOU HERD DATA

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the announced cut-back of the federal research work on the North Slope's Porcupine Caribou herd, could the Minister tell us whether there will now be sufficient data available on this herd to guide the decisions of this screening committee? In addition, can the Minister assure the House that the Yukon territorial Government will carry out fully, and I mean fully, all of the research work that is presently being done by the Canadian Wildlife Service?

**Hon. David Crombie (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** I am advised that sufficient funds are available, Mr. Speaker. If the screening committee requires more funds then, of course, I shall be happy to receive any submission in that regard.

Second, with respect to the responsibilities of the Yukon Government, it is a Government that I trust, and I know it will carry out its responsibilities.

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#### INDUSTRY

##### ECONOMIC FREE ZONES PROPOSAL

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. I, too, would like to welcome him back from 42nd Street.

Yesterday I asked his Science and Technology Minister how far the Government intended to go to attract foreign capital. The Minister replied that the Government had not ruled out the B.C. concept of economic free zones in spite of the fact that those zones would sometimes go as far as destroying minimum wage legislation. Does the Prime Minister agree with his Minister, namely, that the Government has not ruled out supporting economic free zones?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think the Minister used the term "the B.C. concept" at all. It is not germane to B.C. It is found in some areas where they are desirous of attracting capital and creating new jobs. It is one that we proposed to look at, along with thousands of others.

#### UNION RIGHTS

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, given the fact that British Columbia's Industry Minister, Don Phillips, has said that he wants the support of the federal Government because in these zones "unions will not have any