

Inquiries of the Ministry

Limited, in which this government has a substantial share, did not follow the prescribed drilling practices in its activities on King Christian Island where this gas fire is now taking place?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I can only say to the House that the drilling program was a good one, but there was an error made by the drilling crew on the spot. They had been instructed to stop drilling at 1,800 feet. They did not stop and that is why we had this blowout. The two people who made that error and did not follow the instructions have been fired.

Mr. Anderson: I have a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must bring to the attention of hon. members the fact that there are only a few minutes left before the end of the question period. The hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River.

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NATIONAL PARKS**PROPOSAL THAT QUETICO PROVINCIAL PARK BE TAKEN OVER**

Mr. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, the Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development answered the last question so well I wish to put another question to him. Would the minister be prepared to enter into negotiations with the province of Ontario with a view to taking over Quetico Provincial Park for the purpose of making it a wilderness national park?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I would be very happy, if we can come to terms with the Ontario government, to establish more national parks in Ontario. I think the suggestion of the hon. member is a very good one.

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[Translation]

TRANSPORT**MAGDALEN ISLANDS—IMPROVEMENT OF FERRY SERVICE**

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a very important question to the Minister of Transport.

Could he tell the House what progress is being made in the negotiations between the department and the Quebec government concerning the possibility of making available to the Canadian Transport Commission the *M.V. Manic* in order to update and improve the ferry service between the Magdalen Islands, in my constituency, and Souris, on Prince Edward Island?

May I add, Mr. Speaker, that we, people of the Magdalens, have long been anxiously expecting some improvement in that field.

Mr. Speaker: I have the impression that the hon. member was trying to make representations instead of putting a question and he must take it for granted that

[Mr. Anderson.]

his representations have been noted by the responsible minister.

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[English]

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY**PUBLICATION OF CARR REPORT**

Mr. Jim McNulty (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Transport whether the Carr report concerning St. Lawrence Seaway operations has been received by the government and, if so, will it be tabled in the House?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Carr report refers to the St. Lawrence Seaway which has its origin close to Iles-de-Madeleine, where we are looking into the problem referred to by the last hon. gentleman. I am expecting that the study of the Carr report will be complete within a very short time and, at that time, we will make a decision concerning what portions of it and in what form it should be brought forward for public consultation and discussion.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**QUEBEC—FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAMS TO ALLEVIATE UNEMPLOYMENT**

Mr. Gaston Clermont (Gatineau): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Since the premier of Quebec is due to announce, next week, new programs aimed at alleviating unemployment in his province, I should like to know if the Department of Regional Economic Expansion has been consulted concerning its participation to such programs?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we have not yet been advised regarding the projects of the Quebec government, but should the latter ask for our co-operation, it will be granted with pleasure.

[English]

SAINT-JEAN—DESIGNATION AS SPECIAL AREA

Mr. Walter Smith (Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Can the minister advise the House if plans are being made to include the county of Saint-Jean as a designated area—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will recall I suggested yesterday that a question of this nature was not in order at this time.