

colleagues in the federal cabinet and to those in the provinces. I expect this development agreement and the subordinate agreements which will flow therefrom will be ready in a month from now, or a month and a half at the outside.

* * *

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

CANADA-U.S. ACTION TO CLEAN UP POLLUTION OF GREAT LAKES

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of the Environment. In light of the recent meeting between Canadian and United States officials of the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes water quality agreement, can the hon. gentleman assure the House that adequate staffing and funding will immediately be provided for the proposed clean-up, as the IJC has admitted the lack of same? Further, is it the intention of the government to accelerate steps to prevent the continual discharge of water pollutants into the Great Lakes before it is too late?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Yes, I am glad to give the hon. member that assurance, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST THAT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT BE PERMITTED TO ATTEND EDMONTON TRI-LEVEL CONFERENCE AS OBSERVERS

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct this question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the importance of the national tri-level intergovernmental meeting in Edmonton next week, and the fact that this meeting is open to the press but closed to official observers, will the minister undertake to ensure that members of parliament wishing to attend the meeting will be accredited as observers?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Arrangements of this sort are under the direction of the secretariat which is organizing the meeting, and the direction of the chairman who is acting on behalf of all three governments involved. I understand that the problem is purely physical inasmuch as there is just not sufficient room available.

* * *

PUBLIC SERVICE

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC SERVICE STAFF RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT ACTS

Mr. Peter Reilly (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to those asked by the hon. member

Oral Questions

for Winnipeg North and the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton. It is directed to the government House leader. In view of the fact the Speech from the Throne promised that revisions will be proposed to the Public Service Staff Relations Act and the Public Service Employment Act, can the hon. gentleman indicate when we may expect the necessary bills to be brought down?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): As the House will recall, the chairman of the Public Service Staff Relations Board, Mr. Finkelman, is currently examining proposed revisions to the legislation. He has not yet completed his work, but I expect it will be completed within a reasonable period. The report will be made public and the House will have an opportunity to deal with measures at that time or subsequent to the tabling of his report.

* * *

● (1510)

ENERGY

NATURAL GAS—PROPOSAL FOR TRANSMISSION FROM PRUDHOE BAY BY TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE AND TANKER—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I should like to ask the minister whether the government of Canada considers the proposal of El Paso to move Prudhoe Bay gas to market by means of a trans-Alaska pipeline and tankers both practical and feasible?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): So far, Mr. Speaker, we have had no report on this matter. As the hon. member knows, there has been no application filed with the Federal Power Commission regarding this proposal, but it does seem to be a feasible one. The real question is that of cost relative to construction of a pipeline up the Mackenzie Valley.

* * *

INDIAN AFFAIRS

INVOLVEMENT OF BLACK PANTHER MOVEMENT IN DISTURBANCES AT CAUGHNAWAGA RESERVE—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Is the minister aware of the involvement of members of the Black Panther movement in the recent disturbances and violence at the Caughnawaga reserve, and could he say what steps have been taken to ensure that the activities of this uninvited group have been stopped?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I have heard these rumours myself and, to palliate this situation, we have made sure there would be adequate police protection in Caughnawaga. The matter of undesirables entering