

*Oral Questions*

Crown corporations. As of now I regret to say the record is deplorable.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the feeling expressed by the hon. member and the goals he suggests are ones that we share. There should be a better record in the area of employment of women in Crown corporations. Incidentally there should be a better record in the promotion of bilingualism. These are two areas in which Crown corporations have been contacted to enjoin them to more progress. I shall ask the minister responsible for the status of women to bring me up-to-date on the facts and figures as regards women. On the acceptance and promotion of bilingualism, I have already asked for a report.

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**SMALL BUSINESS**

## DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY

**Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State (Small Business). On December 9, 1976 I asked the minister when we could expect an announcement on a much needed small business policy and his reply was, "Soon". Nearly six months later, on May 30 this year, with still no semblance of a policy, we spoon-fed the minister, by way of an opposition day, a number of suggestions and recommendations toward the formation of such a policy. I should like to ask the minister once again whether he could report on the progress of at least some form of a paper dealing with a small business policy and specifically when can we expect it to be made public?

**Hon. Len Marchand (Minister of State (Small Business)):** Mr. Speaker, I have said on a number of occasions that the target date I had set for presenting a paper to Cabinet was June. The paper is just about complete and should be going forward to my colleagues shortly.

**Mr. Jelinek:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister give the House an undertaking that the announcement on small business policy will be made in the proper forum, this House of Commons and not outside?

**Mr. Marchand:** Mr. Speaker, it would certainly be my desire to make every announcement in the House of Commons, if time permits, but I hope this place will shut down soon so that we can all go home and see our constituents.

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**NORTHERN AFFAIRS**

## DATE OF POLICY STATEMENT—SUBJECT MATTER OF STATEMENT

**Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development who has made several references recently to a policy

[Mr. Fairweather.]

statement he proposes to make regarding the north, a policy statement which is apparently to be the framework on which decisions affecting the north will be made in future, such policy decisions as those affecting pipelines, for example. In view of the fact that we will be debating the pipeline soon, can the minister tell the House whether the policy statement will be made in this House on or before July 15?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, the policy statement would relate more particularly to the constitutional evolution of the north and not necessarily to pipelines and so forth, although it would have some significance for these other decisions. Whether it would be made in the House or not would depend upon when it is approved by a committee of Cabinet and that has not yet been done.

**Mr. Jarvis:** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. The minister originally indicated that the statement was to be of a constitutional and political nature. Is it now the minister's intention to enlarge that framework so that in terms of a policy statement it will include the social, economic and environmental concerns in the broadest sense, and not in terms of specific issues? Does the minister now propose to enlarge that statement and the constitutional, environmental policy statement that he originally intended to make?

**Mr. Allmand:** No, Mr. Speaker, it will still deal principally with the constitutional evolution of the north. Of course, it will relate to powers which govern these other subjects but it is principally a constitutional document. It concerns many more ministers than myself and is subject to review and amendment by my Cabinet colleagues.

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**VETERANS AFFAIRS**

## PENSIONS FOR WIDOWS OF VETERANS WHOSE DISABILITY PENSION LESS THAN FORTY-EIGHT PER CENT

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the promise the minister made a few days ago that he would do his best to get action this year with respect to the provision that denies a widow's pension where the veterans disability pension was less than 48 per cent and also with respect to closing the gap between the disability pension and the base to which it was attached a few years ago, and it is now reasonably clear that the Queen will be reading the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the next session of parliament, will the minister do his best to get that legislation approved in time for it to be included in the Queen's Speech from the Throne in October?

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I will certainly do my ministerial duty and do what I can with respect to that matter.