

structural reform, one of them being housing, the second being food, the third being energy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

THE AGREEMENT WITH NEW BRUNSWICK CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAYS—ALLEGED COUNTER PROPOSAL OF PROVINCE

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Has the minister had the opportunity of checking and examining, as he promised my colleague from Gloucester last Tuesday that he would, the nature of the documents from his department which were tabled in the New Brunswick legislative assembly by the premier of that province and, if so, can he explain the purpose of those documents in order to clarify once and for all a situation that does not seem to be clear?

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, yes, indeed, I have had the opportunity of obtaining specific information on the decision of the New Brunswick premier to table certain documents in the legislative assembly at Fredericton some time ago. In fact, the first document is a plan covering all New Brunswick government highway projects for the next five years. The second he tabled, and to which he refers as a proposal from the federal government, that is, from my department, is not in fact a proposal but at the very most a working paper in which we asked the New Brunswick government for additional information which we needed to pursue further our meetings and negotiations with the New Brunswick government. I must say I deplore the fact that those documents should have been made public since that in no way helps the progress of our negotiations in an objective way.

* * *

● (1440)

[English]

AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT POSITION AT OUTLOOK CONFERENCE ON COW-CALF STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Mr. Ken Hurlburt (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the Outlook Conference next week, will the minister be raising with the provincial ministers of agriculture the same arguments used in this House for betraying the cow-calf operator and only stabilizing the price of finished cattle?

Oral Questions

TRANSPORT

REPORT OF RAILWAYS ON PASSENGER SERVICE—DATE OF PUBLICATION

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. On March 11 I asked the then minister of transport a question regarding the CN-CP report on passenger rail service and the minister was questioned in committee recently. Can he tell us when he will present the CN-CP report on passenger rail travel and when we might hear his comments?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to specifically present the CN-CP report on passenger travel. We are working on specific proposals for passenger travel on a variety of fronts throughout the country at the moment, and we will probably be into the new year before I can make a definitive statement on it.

* * *

ENERGY

HYDROELECTRIC POWER—APPLICATION OF MANITOBA FOR EXPORT PERMIT—POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF ENERGY BOARD ACT—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. On December 4, 1975, as recorded on page 9711 of *Hansard* I asked the minister if Manitoba Hydro had violated section 40 of the National Energy Board Act in starting construction of a hydroelectric line from Ridgeway, Manitoba to Sprague, Manitoba, the purpose of which is exportation of hydro-electric power to the mid-west United States. In view of the assurances which the minister and the Minister of Justice gave me that officials of the government would be examining this problem in the next days, can he indicate to me whether that examination has taken place and whether any charges against Manitoba Hydro are being contemplated at this time?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to give the hon. member a legal opinion. I know this matter is under consideration. I can tell him, however, that the hearing before the National Energy Board will take place on Monday, to the best of my knowledge.

* * *

MANPOWER

POSSIBLE ELIMINATION OF SOME YOUTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS—ALTERNATIVE MEASURES TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister and it involves two government programs, Opportunities for Youth and the Company of Young Canadians. In view of reports that the government is seriously considering dispensing with either or both of these programs and in light of the fact that the unemployment rate among young people is running at double the national average—some 317,000 young people