

## Oral Questions

[English]

## ENERGY

ATHABASCA TAR SANDS—REQUEST THAT MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND SERVICES EXPLAIN HIS DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO COMMITTEE

**Mr. Jim Balfour (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Supply and Services. I wonder if the minister would be willing to appear before the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works for the purpose of informing the committee of his plans for the development of the tar sands and, if not, why not?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot add anything to what I said in Calgary. I think my speech did not leave anything out. If the hon. member would like to have a copy of my speech, I will gladly send him one.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Mackenzie. The hon. member for Regina East has a supplementary question. Perhaps he should be recognized first.

**Mr. Balfour:** In light of the minister's comment that the public and members of parliament seem to have a closed mind on the subject of the development of the tar sands, would the minister appear before an open committee of members of the House of Commons for the purpose of explaining his plan for the development of this project?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have serious doubts about this line of questioning. Perhaps we might give the hon. member for Mackenzie an opportunity to ask his question.

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## HEALTH

SUPPLY OF DOCTORS IN RURAL AREAS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Would the minister leave football alone for a while and indicate what plans he may have for supplying some of the outlying rural areas with doctors as well as retaining those who are there, since he has already given some indication that there are too many doctors in the country?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say first that it is hon. members on the other side who seem to be much more concerned about football than we on this side. It is they who seem to be spending much more time wondering what is coming or not coming than we are.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lalonde:** As to the specific question asked by the hon. member, I am appearing this afternoon before the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs, as I have been on several occasions over the last few weeks. We have already discussed this particular

[Mr. Chrétien.]

point and will continue discussing it this afternoon. I only hope the hon. member will take the trouble to attend. If he does, he will get a very elaborate answer to his question.

**Mr. Korchinski:** I thank the minister for his invitation but I wonder whether he would inform the country and the House whether he has a specific policy. All he has given us is a lot of talk.

**Mr. Lalonde:** The hon. member will be pleased to read in the report of the standing committee, if he does not wish to attend, what the stand of the government is on this matter. He will then find that we have a very good and a very specific policy indeed in this respect.

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● (1530)

## POST OFFICE

SUBSTITUTION OF PICK-UP SERVICE FOR DELIVERY BY LETTER CARRIER FOR BUSINESS OFFICES IN HIGH RISE BUILDINGS

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General, and may I say that there has been a little bit of difficulty in delivering it. Arising from the study released by the Letter Carriers' Union which reveals that over 80 per cent of business offices in high rise buildings prefer mail delivery by letter carrier rather than the pick-up service being introduced by the Postmaster General, without consultation, will the minister now meet with the letter carriers on this matter with a view to maintaining the best possible service to the Canadian public?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, I refute the words said by the hon. member, and I want to assure him that there was consultation, that there is consultation now, and that I had many opportunities to speak with the union's president. I spoke to him just this morning. The hon. member can be assured that negotiations are going on in this regard. Thus, when he says that there is no consultation, he is completely wrong.

[English]

**Mr. Dinsdale:** In view of the fact the minister has given his assurance of meaningful consultations on this important issue, and the fact that the letter carriers in their release have stressed the importance of high quality of service, will the minister delay further implementation of this program until these consultations have been completed?

[Translation]

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, if a decision has to be taken on this matter, I will announce it soon in the House.