

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I ask the minister whether talk of an election this fall arises from the hope that there will still be a place to bury the government in Canada?

* * *

ENERGY

EAST COAST OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS RESERVES—TYPE OF DRILLING RIG, COMPANY THAT WILL PERFORM WORK

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): My question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who, according to the roster, is supposed to be here today. In his absence I will direct it to the Acting Minister. In view of the statement by the Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in Nova Scotia that offshore mineral tests indicate there are sufficient oil reserves to last 30 years and double that amount of gas requirements, can the minister tell us whether the new drilling rig to be put in use off the east coast is similar to others already in existence? Can he also say which company will carry out this work?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I shall be glad to take the question as notice for the minister directly concerned who is away today on official business.

PROGRESS ON AGREEMENT WITH ATLANTIC PROVINCES ON OFFSHORE RESOURCES

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): While questions are being taken as notice may I ask, in view of the prediction by the deputy minister yesterday that oil will be discovered off the east coast within two years, what progress has been made in consultation with the Atlantic provinces in negotiating an agreement concerning offshore resources? Perhaps the minister concerned will tell us when he reports to the House.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I will take that as notice too.

* * *

NATIONAL DEFENCE

DOCKYARD EMPLOYEES WAGE DISPUTE—AMENDMENT OF OFFER TO REMOVE DISPARITY

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): May I ask the President of the Treasury Board the following question. In view of the rejection by east coast dockyard workers of the government's wage offer because acceptance would have meant increasing the disparity between rates paid to workers on the east coast compared with those on the west coast, is the government reconsidering its position and will it make an offer which, at least, will not result in increasing the disparity in wages and salaries which presently exists?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): I am sure the hon. member is aware of my reluctance to conduct collective bargaining on the floor of the House.

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): In order to clarify the situation concerning naval dockyard workers' income, will the minister make a statement on motions concerning Treasury Board's policy with respect to the wages of hourly-rated employees in various regions of the country?

Mr. Drury: If the hon. member feels this situation requires clarification I shall be glad to provide it to him.

* * *

AIRPORTS

TORONTO—PROGRESS ON SELECTING SITE FOR NEW FACILITY

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that many months have elapsed since the minister said he would advise the House of the location of the proposed new jumbo airport near Toronto, may I ask whether the hon. gentleman is now in a position to tell us what steps have been taken?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I can only report, as I did a few days ago, that I have a communication ready for the new premier of Ontario inviting him to meet with me as soon as he wishes to do so following his installation—I presume that is the word. In short, I am ready to talk with him as soon as he is ready, and I hope that very quickly after that we can reach a decision jointly on how to proceed.

* * *

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

REJECTION OF UNION PROPOSALS ON SICK LEAVE AND JOB SECURITY—INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF CONCILIATION BOARD

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): I should like to address a question to the Minister of Transport. Having regard to the fact that bids for improved sick leave arrangements by railway union officials negotiating with the CNR were refused on January 7 and 8 followed by the rejection on January 12 and 13 of proposals concerning job security, does the minister plan to seek the services of a federal conciliation board to resolve this dispute?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I am sorry. Would the hon. member be good enough to repeat the question? I assumed it was addressed to the President of the Treasury Board.

Mr. Paproski: Having regard to the fact that bids for improved sick leave arrangements by railway union officials negotiating with the CNR for wage increases and other benefits were refused on January 7 and 8, and since