

Oral Questions

infrastructure of this kind, hydro and roads, I would be pleased to go into it, as I have been willing to at standing committee, in some detail. If the hon. member wants to know exactly what was in the mind of the gentleman from the other place, Mr. Olson, I think that it is best that the hon. member ask him.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1450)

QUERY RESPECTING GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): I would submit, Madam Speaker, that the Minister of State for Economic Development has an over-all view of Canada, and it would be the minister of northern development who should know the specific details in the area which comes under his jurisdiction. Am I correct in thinking, Madam Speaker, that this is another one of these promises, something like the western development fund, the \$4 billion fund, which everyone over there refers to, but which never seem to materialize? Are these just promises, or is the minister really going to do something about these questions?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, if the hon. member would like to see the whole history of federal government expenditure in the Northwest Territories which has reached up into the hundreds of millions this year, and in past years, and how it breaks down with respect to infrastructure, I would be more than happy to send it to him. If the hon. member would like to see what commitments there are in terms of what will be necessary in the future for development—when that development takes place—I will be more than happy to show him that. If he thinks that during the question period I can indicate every road which requires construction, the hon. member knows—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nielsen: Name one.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): I could name several in the Yukon on which there has been significant federal government expenditure, which the hon. member for Yukon has never given us any credit for whatsoever.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Munro (Hamilton-East): I would be more than happy to send all that material to the hon. member this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

COMPOSITION OF FUTURES SECRETARIAT

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. While commending the minister on

the appointment of the Hon. David MacDonald as president of the newly established futures secretariat, I cannot understand why, of the 27 directors, eight are from Toronto, six are from Ottawa, and five are from Montreal. In effect 70 per cent are from the Ottawa-Toronto-Montreal axis. Only one director is from British Columbia. Is it the minister's view that British Columbians are incapable of engaging in public education on the problems of the developing world, or is it simply a case, once again, of ignoring British Columbia?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the explanation for both parts of the hon. member's question is the same, namely, that this is an independent, non-governmental organization for which I can only take credit for having inspired. The choice of Mr. MacDonald as the president was made independently, and the choice of directors was made independently. I can tell the hon. member that I did hear from the president, in a report last week, that the secretariat did expect to enlarge the board of directors, and that it had begun with this board to get the operation going as quickly as possible.

Miss Jewett: Madam Speaker, the figures I gave include the enlargement. I just received word today that those are the figures. If, indeed, this new futures secretariat thinks so little of the rest of the country, it already discourages me. The minister, at least, could have suggested that it have a better representation. However, let me move on to a related question.

CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): I would like to ask the minister if he will be saying today whether the government will specifically adopt the recommendation of the North-South task force, namely, the recommendation that one per cent of official development assistance be devoted to development education.

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): If I could catch Your Honour's eye at the proper time, I will present the government response to the task force. I can also undertake to pass the hon. member's comments on to the futures secretariat.

* * *

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

TASK FORCE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Madam Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. One of the most important and far-reaching documents which have been presented to the Canadian public and the government in a number of years is the document entitled "The Great Lakes Seaway Task Force", which deals with setting a course for the 1980s. That document outlines some pretty frightening things, in terms of the St. Lawrence Seaway. I wonder whether the minister, his department or the government has made any