

*Order Paper Questions*

As far as Question No. 4,465 is concerned which contains some very plain, simple questions dealing with the value of Petro-Canada's assets at the present time, the number of persons working with the company and in particular the amount of dollars which Petro-Canada is spending in advertising. All of these are simple questions, the answers to which could be compiled in a month or two. Question No. 4,465 has been on the Order Paper in excess of half a year. Why has that group of questions not been answered within Question No. 4,465?

**Mr. Smith:** Madam Speaker, I am not in a position to advise the Hon. Member exactly why they have not been answered. We on this side of the House are not afraid of answering sensitive questions. We have answered over 82.6 per cent of all the questions put on the Order Paper during this session. But based on the representation made by my good friend and colleague, the Hon. Member for Crowfoot (Mr. Malone), I will be delighted to look into the matter and do the best I can on his behalf. It will be a pleasure.

**Mr. Taylor:** Madam Speaker, I heard the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Smith) say the same thing three times to me. I wonder whether he is still delighted and still trying to find happiness in giving me the answer to Question No. 2,329 which has been on the Order Paper for more than a year and a half. I cannot understand it. The question is not that difficult. It refers to President Reagan's visit to Canada. Surely all of those records are complete now unless defeated Liberal candidates were invited and no other defeated candidates. I do not know why the Government is holding up the answer.

Second, there is Question No. 4,542 which has been on the Order Paper for a month only. That is not very long. A CRTC hearing was held in Edmonton. All the records are available. What is holding up the answer?

**Mr. Smith:** Madam Speaker, I am very pleased that the Hon. Member has drawn this matter to my attention. I will be very pleased to look into it with holy haste.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Madam Speaker, as the Parliamentary Secretary is so receptive and responsive to questions on the Order Paper that have been there for some time, would he look into Question Nos. 4,429, 4,430, 4,431? They have to do with Petro-Canada's activities in looking for oil in foreign countries.

**Mr. Smith:** Madam Speaker, needless to say, I will be very happy to look into this matter on behalf of my friend, the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski).

• (1750)

**Mr. Crouse:** Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member is in such an amiable mood, I would like to ask him why it has not been possible for me to get an answer to Question No. 4515 which deals with an incident which happened in a place called Cherry Hill, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia. The question spells it all out. The Government went to work and built a skidway on a piece of land without even getting clearance to

the title of that land. When the man who owned that land came back from a holiday, he found that the Government of Canada had built a skidway on the land. The Government said to him, "It seems we have made a mistake." If the Parliamentary Secretary is checking, it is question No. 4,515.

The Government then offered this man \$2,000 or \$3,000 for his land. He then pointed out that he did not only have land to sell. He said that when someone builds something on another person's land without their permission, that person not only has the land to sell but the land upon which the facility has been constructed as well. This man was asking for approximately \$50,000 from the federal Government.

For this reason, my constituents are rather anxious to find out whether, when they seek a loan from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, everything has to be cut and dried or else they are refused the loan. This is a case where, without bothering to check to see who owned the land, the Government moved in and built a skidway. My taxpayers work hard for their money. Fishing is not particularly good in Atlantic Canada, especially in Nova Scotia. They are worried when they see tax money spent in this fashion which does nothing to benefit them.

In the long run, the Government said that it would solve the problem by tearing up the skidway. I would like to know what happened. It is a very simple matter to which I would like to have an answer.

While the Parliamentary Secretary is checking into that particular question, I would like to inquire about a question I asked over a year ago of the Minister about the situation that exists in a place called Woods Harbour in Shelburne County. Under Question No. 4,518, I asked what the Government will do about dredging in that area. It is a very important matter because if one were to visit Woods Harbour, one would see a large fleet there of well over 100 ships. When the tide is at the halfway mark, those draggers and long liners are sitting on the bottom. If a fire breaks out in one of the inner draggers, it is impossible to move the fleet out of the harbour. Millions of dollars of valuable inshore draggers and long liners would be completely destroyed. The Government of Canada should dredge that area. When will I get an answer?

**Madam Speaker:** Order. I do not think there are any specific rules about how long one can take to ask for information on a question on the Order Paper, but common sense says that it should be short.

**Mr. Smith:** Madam Speaker, I would like to say that it would be a pleasure for me to pursue this matter on behalf of my good friend, the Hon. Member for South Shore (Mr. Crouse). I have held him in esteem for many years. I attended university with his daughter.

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

**Mr. Smith:** I would be happy to look into the matter for him.