

Oral Questions

should be aware that I personally visited that particular village.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): I saw the director general and we built funds into the budget and insisted that he get our offices to look at that particular project. Allocation was made to correct the situation. The hon. member said that it has not been corrected. I will check into the matter and report back to him.

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AGRICULTURE**SHORTAGE OF VETERINARIANS**

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. As he will know, Canada desperately needs more veterinarians right across the country, especially in the Atlantic provinces which have no veterinary college. Now the only English-speaking veterinary college east of Saskatoon, Ontario's veterinary college in Guelph, is starved for funds and consequently risks losing its accreditation because of plunging standards. Given the supreme importance of veterinary medicine to the agricultural and fisheries industries, what will the federal government do to respond to the crisis in this important area of national concern?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, the hon. member knows that we have the same concern as he has that we have proper educational facilities for people to train to be veterinarians and to study marine biology. Several years ago we proposed the sharing of that kind of a program in the maritimes. They selected an independent commission to select a site. The independent commissioners selected a site in Prince Edward Island, and then the provinces could not agree among themselves where the school should be, so I had to withdraw the funds from the appropriations of my department because they were not being spent. At that time there was not the shortage they said. The veterinarians association of Canada indicated that there was not the shortage which we foresaw when we proposed the building of the school. We participated in the OAC, in funding the school at Guelph and also the school at Saskatoon. We provided the same provisions for the school to be built some place in the Atlantic region, but it is up to them to make that decision.

**DISAGREEMENT ON LOCATION OF NEW VETERINARY COLLEGE
IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES**

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the failure of the four Atlantic provinces to agree on a site for the proposed Atlantic regional veterinary college, how does the federal government intend to break the stalemate? Does it consider it important to break the

stalemate which has caused this long-awaited project to flounder? For example, is the federal government actively pursuing the possibility of private investment funding of the college, to get it off the ground?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I am sure the hon. member knows very well that we met a group from his province who were making that proposal. They will be making a written submission to us in the very near future. I understand that it is finished or is about to be finished, and that they want to arrange another meeting as soon as they can. But I think the tragic thing is that in the Atlantic provinces every province is under Tory administration and they cannot agree among themselves where it should be; I think that is the tragic part of it.

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[*Translation*]

ENERGY**INQUIRY WHETHER PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION WILL PREVAIL
OVER NEW POWERS GIVEN TO NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD**

Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency-Orléans): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Quebec Minister of Energy, who was in Ottawa yesterday, stated that with the passing of Bill C-108, the powers of the National Energy Board with respect to foreign exports of hydroelectric power will be increased. He added that decisions by the National Energy Board will constitutionally take precedence over provincial legislation relating to farmland and the environment. Can the minister give the House the assurance that when Bill C-108 is adopted, the powers of the National Energy Board with respect to the issuing of foreign export licences for hydroelectric power will remain as they are now and that, as the minister stated himself during the debate on second reading, provincial legislation shall prevail over the new powers conferred on the National Energy Board?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, the hon. member will recall that in the debate in the House on this subject, I indicated that the powers to be conferred under this bill on the National Energy Board relate directly to the authority of Parliament over matters concerning interprovincial and international trade, and that the powers the National Energy Board would be obtaining are the equivalent of, or actually fewer than, those the Board already has with respect to oil and gas pipelines. Therefore, the National Energy Board will have powers that are equivalent to existing ones relating to oil and gas.

As for the second part of the hon. member's question, he will also recall that I mentioned the same practice now being followed for oil and gas pipelines would also apply to the transmission of hydroelectric power. The point is that we must