

discuss compensation, similar to the meeting he had with New Brunswick fishermen?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Shortly, Mr. Speaker. I might add that our officials will be down there tomorrow to discuss the terms of compensation which would apply, as the hon. member knows, only to the Port aux Basques area.

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POLLUTION

REFERENCE BY DANISH EMBASSY TO IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN-UP OF CANADIAN SALMON RIVERS

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Does the minister share the view expressed by the spokesman for the Danish Embassy as to the importance of an immediate and effective clean-up of pollution in Canadian salmon rivers on the Atlantic coast?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. My colleague the Minister of Fisheries spoke equally strongly on that question. I hope we will have the co-operation of the provinces in cleaning up those streams.

INTENTION OF GOVERNMENT RESPECTING PROCLAMATION OF ARCTIC WATERS POLLUTION PREVENTION ACT

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, the other day I asked the Minister of the Environment to tell us why it is that the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act had not yet been proclaimed after almost two years and he said that the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development would be making a statement. I wonder whether the minister is ready to do that now?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, only the legislation applying to inland waters of Northwest Territories has been proclaimed. The Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act has not been proclaimed as yet because if we did so now, without having first settled all aspects of the problem, we should have to close down the port of Churchill. I do not believe the people in Manitoba would be happy about that.

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[English]

TRANSPORT

PROPOSED LINKING OF KOOTENAY AND ELK RAILWAY TO U.S. LINE—AMENDMENT OF RAILWAY ACT TO ENABLE TRANSPORT COMMISSION TO CONSIDER PUBLIC INTEREST

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that the Kootenay and Elk Railway Company looks upon the recent Supreme Court decision as a green

Inquiries of the Ministry

light to proceed with its proposed railway to join up with the Burlington-Northern, can the minister tell the House whether he has decided to bring in amendments to the Railway Act which would give the Canadian Transport Commission the authority to take Canada's public interest into account when deciding upon applications such as that made by the Kootenay and Elk Railway?

• (1520)

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I believe I answered that question a few days ago in response to a question asked by the leader of the hon. gentleman's party. The whole question of that judgment is now being examined. It is a very lengthy document, and I am still waiting for word as to just what the actual, legal interpretation is.

Mr. Harding: In view of the urgency of this matter, can the minister indicate when he is likely to make the decision known to the House?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that the two issues are that closely related. In other words, I understand that there is ample room for appeal or some further action with regard to the decision of the Supreme Court. That may take some considerable time. I would take it that—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have reached the end of the question period. I feel sorry for a number of hon. members in the back rows who have not had an opportunity to ask their questions. I invite hon. members in the front rows to reflect on the situation of hon. members in the back rows—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker:—who from day to day find it difficult to obtain what I consider to be their fair share of questioning time in the question period. I might perhaps be permitted to recognize quickly the hon. member for Sainte-Marie for a brief question before calling orders of the day.

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[Translation]

AIRPORTS

STE. SCHOLASTIQUE—ALLEGED DIVERSION OF FEDERAL GRANTS—USE FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I was getting discouraged, as I have a question for the hon. Minister of Transport. It concerns the Ste. Scholastique airport, and particularly the serious accusations brought forward by the Liberal member for Argenteuil in the national assembly of Quebec to the effect that the major part of the \$40 million grant for assistance to municipalities in that area has been diverted and used for other purposes.

Could the Minister of Transport clarify the matter and tell us to what extent this allegation is accurate?

Mr. Speaker: I am under the impression that this question was put yesterday—