

*Oral Questions*REQUEST THAT MINISTER MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO
CABINET

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Madam Speaker, Atlantic Canada is folding up. Its very economic foundations are being undermined, and the Minister of Transport and his cronies are the moles responsible for it. Will the minister at least speak sympathetically to some of his colleagues on our behalf in order to salvage some of those doomed jobs, aspirations and broken dreams in Atlantic Canada—just to save some of them or must we be satisfied with just a hint of a tear?

● (1440)

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I was merely asking the hon. member a very pertinent question. Does he believe that CN should insulate itself and keep all of its labour force even if there is no work to be done? That is a question.

Mr. Jelinek: Why are you asking the question?

Mr. Pepin: Do you believe that?

Mr. Corbett: Yes.

Mr. Pepin: It's good to know that you do. With respect to the sympathy that I have for the workers, particularly in the maritime area, I think I demonstrated that fairly clearly in recent days with respect to SYSCO.

* * *

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

CASE OF DONALD MARSHALL

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice concerning the case of Donald Marshall. The minister will know Mr. Marshall is a Micmac Indian who was convicted of the murder of Sandy Seale in Nova Scotia in 1971 when he was 17 years old, and that he has spent 11 years in federal prisons. There is public speculation now that he is innocent, and there have been published reports that another person has admitted to the crime. Will the minister tell the House now what has transpired and whether action can be taken to allow all the facts to be made public? If an injustice has occurred, can he take steps to have it remedied?

Miss MacDonald: Somebody answer the question.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, with respect to the Marshall case, I am reviewing it and I am having discussions with the Attorney General of Nova Scotia, but we have not as yet resolved the problem. However, I hope to be able to do so by the end of this week.

ACTION TAKEN BY MINISTER

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, the Marshall family and other people devoted to this case have been waiting months for some kind of an indication from the Minister of Justice about what course of action he will follow. He has the power to grant a pardon; he has the power to order a judicial inquiry; and he simply tells us that he is taking time to decide. Can the minister not tell us a little more about what is going on? This case has been the subject of national magazine articles. It has had headlines in newspapers. Why is the minister so unwilling to disclose the facts in this case? What considerations are being applied to Mr. Marshall who may have been wronged by our justice system in Canada?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, if this case was such a problem in the mind of the hon. member, he might have asked the question long before. Some members on this side of the House have talked to me about this problem for many weeks—

Mr. Lawrence: The hon. member has asked you.

Mr. Chrétien:—and some people from the Cape Breton area also. I am working on that at this time. I am in communication with the Attorney General of Nova Scotia. I have said that I hope to make a report to this House before the end of this week.

* * *

CROWN CORPORATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Madam Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. It concerns Crown corporation legislation. This legislation was recommended by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in its report to the House over a year ago. This recommendation was repeated recently in the fifteenth report. I know the minister himself recognized the need for such legislation, as was stated last year. Could he tell the House when Crown corporation legislation will be presented?

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, I expect that legislation dealing with the control, direction and accountability of Crown corporations—and very responsive, I might say to the concerns of the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra—will be presented in the very near term.

QUERY RESPECTING CONTENT OF LEGISLATION

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Madam Speaker, could the minister state whether consideration is being given to including comprehensive audit provisions in the Crown corporation legislation?