

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** That decision has not been taken but as the hon. member will realize this is an option which, for the first time, we are prepared to consider with the Maritime Energy Corporation. Indeed, it is an option we are also prepared to consider with the premier of Newfoundland in connection with the development of Gull Island.

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#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

##### PROPOSED CHANGE IN LAW RELATING TO MATRIMONIAL CAUSES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Has the minister given any consideration to the introduction of legislation with regard to divorce reform as proposed by the Law Reform Commission, with particular emphasis on the question of marriage breakdown, and has there been any consultation with provincial governments with respect to bringing divorce, alimony and maintenance under one common head, as has been proposed?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice):** There has been a good deal of discussion on the subject going as far back as the meeting of the provincial attorneys general in Vancouver last June. There have been consultations and discussions about various aspects of law reform relating to divorce and family law. What developed from those discussions was that we should immediately endeavour to make progress in the establishment across the country of experimental projects such as unified family courts and that action should be taken with respect to changing the law relating to the division of matrimonial property. I am happy to report that in line with the remarks in the Speech from the Throne last fall, very considerable progress is being made in both those areas with the provincial governments. In a third area, we are having consultations on the latter part of the report of the Law Reform Commission relating to the dissolution of marriage. I am not, at this point, in a position to indicate what, if any, legislation might be introduced.

**Mr. Baldwin:** In order to try to accelerate the slow progress which, if I read correctly between the lines of what the minister has said, is being made, I would like to ask whether the hon. gentleman is prepared to seek the advice of the representatives of the people by introducing a green paper for consideration by a committee of this House with suitable statistics gathered as to what has been happening under the existing act. Such a committee of this House might then be able to lend its services to the government.

**Mr. Basford:** Mr. Speaker, that is a worth while suggestion and one which is already being considered. However, with regard to the first part of the hon. member's question I would point out that very real progress is being made in the areas in which the attorneys general and I agree. There is an agreement with the province of Ontario as to the establishment of a

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unified family court as of July 1. There is an agreement in principle with the government of Newfoundland. There is one to be established in Manitoba, but that was postponed for legitimate budgetary reasons. Discussions have taken place with the province of Saskatchewan, which indicated support for the scheme in its speech from the throne two weeks ago. There has been discussion with the province of British Columbia about modification of their unified family court and an active evaluation scheme is now under way there. I think, therefore, that in those areas upon which agreement has been reached, very substantial progress has been made.

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#### ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA LIMITED

##### RENEGOTIATION OF AGENCY CONTRACT WITH MARUBENI—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE OF PROPER DOCUMENTATION AND AUDITING

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources arising from his reply to the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham to the effect that Atomic Energy of Canada Limited is renegotiating its agreement with the Marubeni Company, which is its designated agent in Japan? In view of the fact that the Marubeni Company has already indulged in some questionable business practices in connection with the sale of planes by the Lockheed company to Japan, and in view of the fact that the Auditor General before the public accounts committee on February 8 of this year said that any agreement with agents which did not provide the necessary documentation and follow the proper auditing practices would meet the same criticism as the agreement which AECL entered into with Shaul Eisenberg, can the minister assure the House that in any agreement negotiated, renegotiated or otherwise with the Marubeni Company there will be provision to ensure that the proper documentation and the auditing practices commonly followed by the Auditor General will be included?

● (1450)

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I think I can give those assurances. Indeed, I can go further than that and say that the government adopted a set of guidelines for its Crown corporations and, of course, AECL will be required to follow those new guidelines.

##### SUGGESTION AGENT NOT BE USED IN SALE OF REACTOR TO JAPAN

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The history to date does not give me much confidence in that statement. In view of the fact that Westinghouse and other companies which are engaged in selling nuclear reactors have decided that there is no longer any need for the use of the services of agents, is the government giving consideration to suggesting to AECL that we dispense with the use of an agent in the matter of negotiat-