

Oral Questions

a clear case of injustice I am prepared to look at it on an individual basis.

• (1440)

Mr. Macdill: Can we have an undertaking from the Secretary of State that in those cases where projects are not recommended by Members of Parliament the department will not adopt the practice of telling people they were turned down because they were not on the list of projects recommended by the Secretary of State?

Mr. Faulkner: Mr. Speaker, we take responsibility for both the approvals and the rejections.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—ROLE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN SELECTING PROJECTS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister would clarify his position with a little more care as to the role individual Members of Parliament are to play in the selection process. The memo that the minister sent to all members implied one possibility, that members were to act as some kind of veto agency in terms of a certain percentage of those applications. Would he clarify the situation for the House now?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, this year, as last year, the role of the Member of Parliament is consultative—

Some hon. Members: Oh?

An hon. Member: Isn't that nice?

Mr. Fairweather: In what way are we consulted?

Mr. Faulkner: If hon. members want a dictionary definition of the word "consultation" I will be happy to comply, but it is perfectly clear that it does not imply a veto.

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POLLUTION

THREAT OF OIL SPILL FROM SUNKEN "IRVING WHALE"—MEETING WITH PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PREMIER—GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to pose a question to the Minister of Transport. Has the minister agreed to meet with the government of Prince Edward Island, as I believe they requested, with regard to the suggestion that it would be feasible to leave the *Irving Whale* lying on the bottom of the Gulf of St. Lawrence? Also, regardless of the decision in that regard, does his department accept primary responsibility for any oil spill that might occur?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will meet with the Premier of Prince Edward Island next Monday, April 9. I have already written a letter to Mr. Campbell on this subject and we are going to discuss it on Monday. There is no doubt that we accept responsibility. If there is an oil spill we are going to

[Mr. Faulkner.]

assume the financial responsibility for cleaning up the whole thing.

THREAT OF OIL SPILL FROM SUNKEN "IRVING WHALE"—UNDERWATER INSPECTION

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister indicate to the House when the last underwater inspection of the *Irving Whale* took place and when the next underwater inspection may take place in order to determine the actual condition of this vessel and the likelihood of it causing a serious pollution problem on the shores of Prince Edward Island?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I asked the Minister of National Defence if he could help in examining the *Irving Whale*. I did not get any answer yet.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: That is not surprising; that is routine.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I know they have special devices that we do not have. As for the last date it was examined, I will inquire about that because I do not know exactly.

Mr. Hees: Jean, now you know how we feel.

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[Translation]

TRANSPORT

ESTABLISHMENT OF MERCHANT MARINE—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Jean-Marie Boisvert (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Transport meets the P.E.I. authorities, will there be any talk of setting up a Canadian merchant marine?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, please forgive my absentmindedness. Could the question be repeated?

Mr. Boisvert: I shall repeat it, Mr. Speaker.

When the Minister of Transport meets the P.E.I. authorities, will there be any talk of setting up a Canadian merchant marine?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, even if we managed to set afloat the *Irving Whale* it would certainly not be the first ship in our merchant marine. In any event, the matter is still on my mind and I trust that some day or other its solution will be found.