

Inquiries of the Ministry

In view of the many questions and representations from hon. members from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island could the minister tell the House whether the railway companies have accepted to be more concerned about the welfare and survival of the export potato industry as far as the harbour at St. John is concerned?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I appreciate that the question is urgent, but I am sure it is not supplementary to the previous question. However, the question having been asked perhaps the minister might reply to it.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have been in touch with the railway with regard to the whole question of the new rates for export shipments of potatoes. I have been told by Mr. MacDougall of the railway as of this morning that further talks are taking place. There appears to have been some misunderstanding—I am not altogether sure whether on the part of the shippers or on the part of the railway—particularly with regard to the charge for the retention of cars, which appears to be the most difficult part of the problem. The indication that I have had, and I do not want to be too hopeful, is that some amicable solution can be reached within a very short time.

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SHIPPING**PROVISION OF WEATHER DATA TO FISHING VESSELS—
FREQUENCY OF BROADCASTS**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, my question is a supplementary or related question to the one asked the Minister of Transport a moment ago by the hon. member for The Sydneys. The question is urgent in that it is generally conceded that officials within the minister's department are—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the hon. member put his question.

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, I must give a bit of background. The officials are doing a first-rate job in assisting in gathering weather data. However, from complaints received from fishermen, especially at this time of year, it has become obvious that this weather data is not getting through to the fishermen. Would the minister undertake to make a study to ascertain whether the manner of projecting weather forecasts can be improved upon, and would the minister endeavour to increase the frequency of broadcasts of weather forecasts which are so beneficial to our fishermen?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to do that.

[Mr. Corbin.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

ITEMS FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS RECESS

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the President of the Privy Council what business will come before the House after the recess and will he assure us that the second reading of veterans' pension legislation will be done of the first items?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I will indicate to the hon. member now that the veterans' legislation will be one of the early items to be called. I could indicate a number of other items that will be called early, including crop insurance legislation, the trade agreement between Canada and New Zealand, the export development legislation and the Yukon Minerals and Northern Power Corporation.

Mr. Baldwin: What about the budget?

Mr. MacEachen: I will keep in mind the suggestion of my hon. friend and also the suggestion in respect of the budget. I am not certain which day it will be called but it will be called early.

Mr. McGrath: What about Beaupré?

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES ACT****PROVISION OF SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE,
LOAN GUARANTEE, ETC.**

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-205, to amend the Regional Development Incentives Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Regional Development.

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): I move:

That Bill C-205, to amend the Regional Development Incentives Act, be amended in Clause 3 by adding to subsection 4 of section 5 the following:

provided however that any incentive shall be granted only after the applicant has provided the Crown or its designated agency with such number of shares in the application firm that the Minister considers to be equivalent in value to the incentive except that where the amount of the incentive is less than one million dollars the Minister may grant an exemption to this provision.

When Bill C-205 was presented to the House for second reading, Mr. Speaker, members of this party agreed to second reading of the bill in order that its provisions and its implications could be studied further in the committee. We agreed also because we were anxious to help in any way in order that the regional development program could be extended or used usefully in dealing with some of the problems facing Canada. At that time we made it quite clear that we felt the provisions of the bill were inadequate in terms of fulfilling the objectives of it as stated by the minister and the government.