

Oral Questions

of Labour. Is the minister in a position to report to the House on the talks which he said he would have with Air Canada regarding its labour relations with its finance branch employees, and in particular has he been able to persuade Air Canada to desist from the practice of farming out finance branch work looking toward a possible lock-out of the employees of that branch?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): The other day when I said I would be meeting with Air Canada officials I thought it would take place this morning. It will take place this afternoon. After I have had those meetings I will be in a better position to respond to the hon. member, perhaps tomorrow.

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INCOME TAX**DEDUCTIBILITY OF COURT ORDERED COSTS FOR MAINTENANCE—SUGGESTED EXTENSION OF PLAN BEYOND COURT ORDERS**

Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. Under the present legislation maintenance costs as decreed by courts as a result of a family break up are tax deductible. However, if the court decreed a \$100 maintenance cost and the husband pays \$150, the \$100 is tax deductible but the \$50 is not. Would the minister agree that the government should be encouraged to support estranged families, even beyond court decrees rather than—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Paproski: Ask the minister in caucus.

Mr. Anderson: Would the minister agree that the government should encourage support for estranged families even beyond court decrees rather than penalizing them, and can the House expect a favourable response and attitude by the minister?

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of National Revenue): We administer it as it is handed to us. We will take the hon. member's suggestion to the Minister of Finance for his consideration.

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AGRICULTURE**COW-CALF STABILIZATION PROGRAM—DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Ever since last year the Minister of Agriculture has promised a program for the cow-calf operators. Since the first announcement of his intention many of these calves have become heifers capable of being bred. So far cattlemen know where the bull is—it is contained at this time. Since it will soon be time to turn the cattle loose on the pasture and turn the bull loose with them, would the minister do his part at this time and produce?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the bulls and the cows will do what is natural regardless of what I have to say.

Mr. Korchinski: I am talking about the policy.

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TOURISM**GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO STIMULATE**

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Having regard for statistical information which indicates that in the area of the tourist industry which has traditionally enjoyed a trade balance in our favour, we are now experiencing a trade deficit of about \$700 million annually, can the minister inform the House whether his department is aware of this fact and if any programs, promotional or incentive, are being planned which would alleviate or reverse this situation?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Yes, Mr. Speaker, quite a number. I undertook to make them available to the committee studying my estimates in detail. I will be glad to send them to the hon. member. They also involve encouraging Canadians to see more of their country because that helps the deficit, as well as encouraging more visitors to come here. But I will be glad to make the whole program available to the hon. member.

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FINANCE**EFFECT ON INTEREST RATES OF LARGE BORROWING BY GOVERNMENT—REQUEST FOR ESTIMATE OF TOTAL BORROWINGS TO END OF 1978**

Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the government is considering borrowing \$300 million from our chartered banks for the purchase of the Orion and the fact that there are other reports of further government intentions to borrow from the commercial lending sector, can the minister tell the House what effect such government borrowings will have on interest rates and the effect such sizeable borrowings from commercial banks will have on the credit available to the private sector?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): We anticipate no difficulties in that regard.

Mr. Huntington: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. Does he have an estimate of the total borrowings that the government will be requesting of the commercial banks to the end of 1978, and can the Minister of Finance explain why an organization with a \$42 billion cash flow has to even consider borrowing from the commercial sector?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): It seems to me that the government of Canada, like any other organization, should