

Oral Questions

investigate what I would call the callous deportation of Mr. Reddy? Has he any information on whether this deportation order was premature, keeping in mind that Mr. Reddy apparently had 60 days within which to appeal? Has the minister caused an investigation to be made and what is the result?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have had some information but I am not satisfied as to its completeness. I will be re-examining the answers I asked for within the next day or so, but I doubt very much if all this will result in a reversal of the decision.

Mr. Alexander: Can the minister advise the House why it was necessary for his department to move with such haste in this matter, particularly when the wife was seven months pregnant and two or three months would not have made any difference? Has he looked into this in order to ascertain why his department moved with such haste?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, there is one aspect of that on which I wish to satisfy myself, but in the meantime I would point out that when the Immigration Appeal Board rejected his appeal in November it stayed the order of execution of deportation for 25 days to permit Mr. Reddy's departure to coincide with his wife's since her visitor's visa had the same length of time before expiry. This was based on the assumption and the indication that Mr. Reddy would voluntarily leave the country but he did not do so.

* * *

FINANCE**INTEREST RATE INCREASES—EFFECT ON SLOW GROWTH REGIONS—POSSIBLE TIGHT MONEY POLICY**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact the Bank of Canada has increased its lending rate twice since the minister introduced his expansionary budget, has he had discussions with the governor of the Bank of Canada, especially since the chartered banks have already increased their lending rates, with regard to the effect this is having on the slow growth regions of the country which are still suffering from chronically high unemployment? Can the minister also assure the House that the Bank of Canada and the government are not in fact embarking on a tight money policy?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have given the assurance before that the monetary policy continues to be expansionary. As a matter of fact, for the first four months of this year the amount of loans granted by the Canadian chartered banks rose at an annual rate of 30 per cent. I have made it clear, and so did the governor, to the chartered banks that special consideration was to be given in the allocation of loans to those slower growth areas, to use the hon. gentleman's phrase, and particularly to smaller businesses. I note with some satisfaction that the chartered banks that did raise their prime rates in response to the bank rate made special provision for a type of dual rate in favour of small busi-

[Mr. Alexander.]

ness, and a good many of those will be found in the Atlantic region.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for a last supplementary on the subject and then the hon. member for Lisgar, the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway and the hon. member for Shefford.

Mr. McGrath: May I ask the minister whether he sought and in fact received an assurance from the governor of the Bank of Canada that there would be no further increases in the interest rates of the Bank of Canada during the period of the minister's expansionary budget?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the governor made it quite clear in the speech he made in Toronto that the monetary policy of the bank would continue to reflect the expansion of the economy. I cannot give the hon. gentleman any such assurance that the bank rate will remain the same. The governor has a duty, under his statute, to respond to domestic and international credit situations and interest rates as he finds them.

* * *

AGRICULTURE**SEIZURE OF MANITOBA EGGS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—EFFECT ON INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING**

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture in connection with interference in the interprovincial movement of farm commodities in Canada, which could have very serious effects on agricultural trade within our country. Has the minister's department ascertained as of the present time whether the Manitoba government was within its quota in sending eggs into the province of British Columbia for sale, which seems to have caused the dispute?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, upon checking I find no interference with interprovincial movement so far. We are concerned about the orderly movement of products across provincial boundaries. I met with the chairman of the National Egg Marketing Board this morning, and I am very optimistic that all this confusion and the suggestion of irregular marketing will come to a happy conclusion.

● (1450)

Mr. Murta: Does the minister not feel that the seizure of approximately 50,000 dozen eggs in British Columbia is a violation of free interprovincial movement within our country?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that the question is argumentative.