

still to make a decision as to whether federal participation will be welcome in that area.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE GRANTING OF AREA IN WOOD BUFFALO PARK TO CREE BAND AS RESERVE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Has the minister's department approved the turn-over of approximately 40,000 acres of land within the Wood Buffalo National Park, including the land containing the gypsum deposit at Peace Point, to the Cree Band as a reserve?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, a request has been made for this land, but no decision has yet been made on this request.

Mr. Elzinga: Will the minister please explain why information was received by one of my constituents from the department's regional office in Edmonton confirming that 40,000 acres are to be turned over to the Cree Band in the Wood Buffalo National Park.

Mr. Buchanan: No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot, but I will be happy to look into the matter.

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WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL BOARDS IN MEETING COST OF CHANGE TO METRIC SYSTEM

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. It follows on Wednesday's announcement of the extension of the federal educational support program for instruction in the French language. I notice the minister is not here. Perhaps his parliamentary secretary can answer it. Is the minister giving any consideration to launching a similar aid program throughout Canada to assist school and college boards in meeting the cost of implementing the changeover to the metric system?

[Translation]

Mr. Gustave Blouin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the minister had to leave for a few minutes. So I take notice of the question and I shall ensure that the hon. member gets a quick answer.

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[English]

FISHERIES

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ICE FACILITIES—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State

Oral Questions

(Fisheries). The Fisheries Development Act and the 50 per cent subsidy to fishermen to assist them with regard to ice-making, ice-storing and other ice facilities will be phased out by the end of this month. Has the minister given consideration to extending that program which is so necessary to fishermen on the east coast?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for raising this point. I have checked into this matter. The normal period for applications would come to an end on December 31. However, there is a recommendation on my desk for a six months extension. I think our actions will be positive.

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[Translation]

FINANCE

POSSIBILITY OF BORROWING FROM IRAN—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

In view of the advantages offered by Iran which is prepared to lend us a considerable amount of money at lower rates than the United States and since this government refuses to call on the Bank of Canada to get the funds necessary for financing the public sector, would the minister inform the House whether he discussed with the Prime Minister of Iran the possibility of our borrowing from them?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, there were several discussions between the Prime Minister of Iran, the Prime Minister of Canada and other colleagues. In my talks with the Prime Minister of Iran I only dealt with a rather international and multinational matter, the problem of recycling petrodollars, to ensure world economic stability.

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[English]

ENERGY

OIL—POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF CANADA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IN SYNCRUDE PROJECT

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Have officials of the Canada Development Corporation had serious discussions with the government about participation of the CDC in the Syncrude project?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, no members of the CDC have had discussions with me. I will have to check with my officials to see whether any discussions took place at the official level.

Mr. Gillies: Is it the position of the government to encourage the CDC to take active participation in this Syncrude project?