

*Oral Questions*

## ROLE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that this particular problem affects between 30 and 40 per cent of the producers in northern Alberta, would the Minister exercise a little compassion, look at the problem, and try to come up with some recommendations to his Department? Would he ask them at least to make recommendations to the financial institutions that finance these particular producers, so that there could be some leniency in that particular area?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member knows that, when it comes to the needs of farmers, no one could be any more compassionate than I can.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mazankowski:** You talk about it and do very little.

**Mr. Whelan:** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member also knows that the industrial dairy program is one that we have something to do with. It is an organization put together at the request of the Provinces. The Canadian Dairy Commission administers this program.

Every farmer producing industrial milk is being asked to share in the cutback across Canada. If it is brought to my attention that there is some area where people are suffering undue hardship, naturally I will make that kind of representation.

It has been reported in the press that they are suggesting that we should withdraw the program. Surely they do not want to go to what is the case in the United States where it costs \$250,000 per hour in subsidies, and where they are piling up mountains of skim milk powder surplus and butter surplus. They do not know what to do with it. They are putting it on the world market at depressed prices and taking our markets away from us. I can think of one country to which they sold 60,000 tons of skim milk powder and gave it 20,000 tons as well. Yet they do not call that cutting prices. We are in rough competition, but we have a good program and we want to keep it good.

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## MINES AND MINING

## THREE-MONTH CLOSING OF TIMISKAMING MINES

**Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Mines. Two iron ore mines in Timiskaming, the Adams Mine and the Sherman Mine, will each be shutting down for a three-month period during the spring and summer. This will be the third shutdown for the Adams and the second for the Sherman.

● (1440)

As well as the 800 permanent jobs involved here, there will be a complete loss of any summer job opportunities for students. The Minister has said repeatedly that action is being taken to help the mining industry. Just what action is she taking now to resolve the problems in the mining industry?

**Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)):** Madam Speaker, I advise the Hon. Member to contact our Department to see what programs we can put into effect in those areas. Through Section 30 and NEED we have put a great many out-of-work miners back into the work force. I would suggest that he contact us as soon as possible to get those programs which will put them to work moving into those areas of the country.

**Mr. MacDougall:** Madam Speaker, that is short term; we are looking for permanent employment.

## REQUEST FOR TAX INCENTIVES TO ASSIST INDUSTRY

**Mr. John A. MacDougall (Timiskaming):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The mining industry needs more than assurances. It needs action now. Will the Minister please make provisions in the new budget to provide incentives and assistance to our mining industry?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I have heard the representations of the Hon. Member. Obviously I will put them together with other representations I have received, and examine them seriously.

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## THE ECONOMY

## REQUEST FOR MORE STIMULUS

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. On the weekend I visited the communities of Guelph and Waterloo, part of the so-called Golden Horseshoe in southern Ontario. In that area 31,000 jobs were lost in the month of December alone. A man in Guelph, who had heard the Minister speaking earlier in the week on the news about the need for more stimulus in the economy, put the following question to me. He asked me to ask it of the Minister, which I should like to do. He said, "If there is a need for more stimulus, why does the Government not do it now instead of waiting another two months for a budget?"

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I am glad that the Leader of the New Democratic Party is travelling a little bit in the country and that he keeps us informed of his visits and travels. I suspect the question he asked today must have been heard by the citizen to whom he referred from his own mouth last week, because it is the same as the one he asked then.