

Oral Questions

increased the amount of the benefit to the users of these and other pasture lands in terms of deep water wells, dams for cattle and so on.

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the increase of expenditures in this area does not necessarily mean an expansion of community services to producers in terms of grazing land, can the minister outline any program under PFRA to increase community pastures in the west where those possibilities arise?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, in a very general way I might say that I have had consultations with one of the ministers of the government of Saskatchewan, and my officials have also discussed the same subject with officials of the government of Saskatchewan with a view to getting certain changes made in the ARDA agreement, but at the moment this has not been completed.

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CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**POSSIBLE SHUTDOWN OF PRINCESS COLLIERY FOR THREE MONTHS—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION AND REPORT**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion who is in charge of the Cape Breton Development Corporation. In view of the concern that has been expressed to me by the supervisory staff of the Cape Breton Development Corporation employed at Princess Colliery that there may be a shutdown of operations for a three-month period as a result of lack of proper development work underground and an apparent shortage of necessary equipment for a long time in the future at this coal mine, would the minister investigate the situation as soon as possible and provide a report?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to do so.

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[Translation]

SPORTS**SUGGESTION THAT FEDERAL GRANTS BE PAID DIRECTLY TO QUEBEC ATHLETES**

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Secretary of State.

In view of the fact that, to safeguard its autonomy, the province of Quebec is refusing federal grants to amateur sports, would the minister tell the House whether he is studying the possibility of direct financial assistance to qualified athletes?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am going to answer this question as it is rather a matter under my department's jurisdiction. I am not aware of the facts mentioned by the hon. member. I am going to inquire about this and inform the House at a later date, if necessary. If the hon. member will

[Mr. Jamieson.]

call specific facts to my attention, I will gladly look into them.

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[English]

FLOODS**HIGH WATER LEVEL IN LAKE ERIE—REQUEST THAT ARDA FUNDS BE PROVIDED IN CERTAIN AREAS SUFFERING EROSION**

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. In view of the fact that \$2.7 million remains available for flood control at the western end of Lake Erie under the ARDA program, will he indicate that the same assistance can be provided for other areas along Lake Erie which are suffering from erosion damage?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, this money was made available under the ARDA agreement which is for the protection of agricultural land and was made on the advice of the Ontario government. The federal government agreed to share 50-50 in that plan.

Mr. Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the minister and some of his colleagues are meeting with their counterparts from the provincial government of Ontario in the near future, will he put forward the suggestion that the federal government would be willing to use the ARDA program to compensate farmers for farmlands lost through erosion?

Mr. Davis: Yes, Mr. Speaker. That matter was discussed with ministers from Ontario who were here in Ottawa this morning, and that compensation was agreed upon.

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POST OFFICE**SERVICE TO CANADIAN PERSONNEL ON VIET NAM SUPERVISORY COMMISSION**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General. In view of the growing complaints of failure by the government to establish a reliable postal service to and from Canadians serving in Viet Nam, will the hon. gentleman indicate what steps he is taking to remedy this situation?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, we are certainly doing what is needed to insure better service to Canadians in this country, and we are also taking all the necessary steps so that Canadians in Viet Nam will receive their mail regularly.

[English]

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, do I take it from the hon. gentleman's reply that in addition to the other problems facing Canadians serving in Viet Nam they are to be assured only of the same poor quality of service as Canadians everywhere receive?