

*Inquiries of the Ministry***LABOUR CONDITIONS****SUGGESTED SUBSIDIZATION OF WAGES PAID TO STUDENTS WORKING ON FARMS**

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** I should like to address a question to the Acting Prime Minister. When the government is considering programs related to students, would it also give consideration to subsidizing the wages of students who wish to work on farms during the summer months? Many jobs are available on farms, but the agricultural industry cannot pay the rates which students feel they should be paid. Would the government consider a subsidy program in this regard?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** I do not think we have any program under discussion now which would involve the subsidization of wages. This is a principle which has many implications and some of them, as the hon. member can see for himself, are rather undesirable.

\* \* \*

**POLLUTION****OTTAWA-HULL AREA—ESTABLISHMENT OF WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** May I address a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Has a water quality management agency been set up for the Ottawa-Hull area under the Canada Water Act and, if not, are arrangements being made for the establishment of such an agency?

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps while the matter is being pondered the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Edmonton West.

\* \* \*

**FINANCE****EFFECT OF GOVERNMENT MONETARY POLICY IN LOWERING INTEREST RATES**

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the average interest on long-term government obligations, as announced by the Bank of Canada today, has increased by half a point compared with the low of a few weeks ago, will the minister advise the House whether he feels that the present monetary policy of the government is having the effect of lowering interest rates?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** It certainly has with respect to short-term interest rates. The treasury bill rate 18 months ago was 8 per cent. It is now less than 3 per cent. Long-term rates have not reacted to the same degree either here or in the United States; although they have declined somewhat, the decline has not been nearly as great.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** In view of the fact that there has been an increase of over half a point on long-term obligations in general, and in view of the fact that mortgage rates under CMHC and other loan programs of the government are related to this long-term rate, how can the minister say that the monetary policy of the government—

[Mr. Speaker.]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is a matter for debate between the hon. member and the minister.

\* \* \*

**POWER****PROPOSED JAMES BAY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON FEDERAL POSITION**

**Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley):** I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the wide-ranging financial aspects of the James Bay power project, would the Acting Prime Minister be prepared to make a statement on motions as to the position of the federal government on this very interesting subject?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker. I do not expect to be Acting Prime Minister for more than a few minutes.

\* \* \*

**HOUSING****GOVERNMENT INTENTION RESPECTING ROCHDALE COLLEGE**

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** I have a question for the future minister of state in charge of housing and urban affairs. In light of the revealing information he gave the standing committee yesterday about Rochdale and the rather messy situation there, solutions for which are not readily available, and in light of the fact that the taxes are approximately two years in arrears and the mortgage—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We are running short of time. Perhaps the hon. member would ask his question.

**Mr. Alexander:** In view of the fact that the preamble has been given, would the minister indicate what is the government's intention with respect to what he calls a very messy affair?

**Mr. Speaker:** The minister's reply should be as brief as possible. If it is to be a general statement it should be made on motions. The minister might be allowed to reply briefly.

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciated knowing that the hon. member, speaking yesterday for his party, indicated his party's wish to see an immediate foreclosure on Rochdale. Since we have not reached that decision yet, I will not be in a position to give him a complete answer for another short time, anyway.

**Mr. Alexander:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know how the minister could come to such a conclusion. If he asked me personally, in view of the situation involving this very messy affair, I would suggest that perhaps he should think of foreclosing and give the place to senior citizens who could put it to better use.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.