

HEALTH

STATUS OF NUTRITION SURVEY

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Some time ago I asked him about the Nutrition Canada survey and he was good enough to promise to get some detail and to say when we could expect the results of the survey to become public. Does he have that information now?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): With pleasure, Mr. Speaker.

The survey of Nutrition Canada was the widest ever undertaken in Canada on Canadians' nutrition. During this survey about 28 million data were collected and they now have to be compiled and analyzed. Reports are being prepared for each province; the first ones will be ready by May and the others will be completed in October or in late September.

These reports will be conveyed to the government of each province as soon as they are completed. An agreement has been reached between the provinces and the federal government whereby all papers will be made public when they are ready, as regards all provinces. Even though the first reports will be conveyed to the provinces in late May, I hope to be in a position to make all these documents public by the middle of October. Meanwhile the provinces and the federal government will make a thorough study of them.

[English]

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Will it be necessary to have the agreement of all the provinces on a course of action before we can expect action on the nutrition survey?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: No, Mr. Speaker. The only agreement reached with the provinces about the study was that reports would not be made public on a regional breakdown only, and in order to prevent a biased interpretation for the whole of the country, these reports were not to be made public separately. Of course, each government will be free to act as it sees fit within its responsibilities in the light of the report.

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[English]

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

ARCHIVES RECORD CENTRE, WINNIPEG—ALLEGED FAILURE OF LOWEST BIDDER TO RECEIVE CONTRACT

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board and the Minister of Public Works. It is with regard to the error made by the Treasury Board and the Department of Public Works in awarding the build-lease Public Archives Record Centre contract in Winnipeg to the second lowest bidder when it should have been awarded to the lowest bidder, thereby saving the Canadian taxpayer

Oral Questions

ers \$272,000. Will the two ministers order a halt to the second lowest bidder proceeding with any building plans until this matter has been fully investigated and a report made to the House of Commons?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I will have to look into this matter. I am not aware of it. I will report back to the House.

Mr. McKenzie: Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that I have written both ministers on this subject, and I have been corresponding with their departments on it for the last three months.

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EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

POSSIBLE EXCEEDING OF CEILING ON LOANS—REQUEST FOR AUDIT

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I have given him notice of it. Would the minister inform the House as of February 28, 1973, to what extent has the Export Development Corporation's \$850 million authority under sections 29 and 30 of the Export Development Act been exceeded?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for this notice. As of February 28 the ceiling has not been exceeded.

Mr. Stevens: Would the minister request the Auditor General of Canada to do an audit of the Export Development Corporation's books as of today, so that the House may be assured that the \$850 million ceiling has not been exceeded?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I do not consider that necessary.

• (1210)

REQUEST THAT CORPORATION GIVE PRIORITY TO CANADIAN COMPANIES

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister inform the House if he has requested the Export Development Corporation to better serve Canadian-owned businesses as opposed to foreign corporations and to give more export assistance to small businesses in this country?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we will have a full opportunity, I hope, at an early date to discuss the question of small Canadian-owned businesses and the great benefit that the Export Development Corporation has provided for Canadians and Canadian jobs.