

Oral Questions

● (1430)

[Translation]

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I have explained many times—I think we have a serious communications problem in this House, because my hon. colleagues opposite do not seem to understand what I am saying—I have explained many times that we are continuing to shoulder our responsibilities under our federal mandate which concerns threatened species and migratory birds, and that we are withdrawing from areas under provincial jurisdiction which concern other animals.

[English]

TERMINATED POSITIONS—REQUEST THAT MINISTER TABLE JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, there is a problem of communication because this is rampant and flagrant irresponsibility on the part of the Government. Will the Minister table the 84 job descriptions of positions which have been terminated in the Canadian Wildlife Service, so the people of Canada can really see what the Government thinks of the environment?

[Translation]

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, since we have decided to make budgetary cutbacks as a result of the incredible deficit we inherited from the previous government, I do not intend to bring back to the Department the 84 positions mentioned by my hon. friend.

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[English]

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICE OF FOREIGN OWNED COMPANIES

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Science and Technology. In view of the fact that many foreign companies when they came into Canada had much of their research and development done by their parent companies, can the Minister tell the House what he proposes to do to stop this practice or control it in the future?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, of course the new Government intends to make it more attractive for those companies to do research and development in Canada, through a variety of incentives which will become evident to this House in the coming months, including the more active use of world product mandates than has been the case in the past.

FREE ECONOMIC ZONES PROPOSAL

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister how far the Government is prepared to

go to attract foreign investment? Do those incentives include what the British Columbia Social Credit Government proposed, that is, free economic zones which apparently will take away trade union rights, cut back on wages and benefits to employees, and so on? Is the Minister prepared to rule that out? Will he not go that far?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, I assume that the NDP is prepared to rule out the concept of free economic zones. We have not yet ruled out that possibility.

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FARM CREDIT CORPORATION

MORATORIUM ON FARM FORECLOSURES

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. I want to welcome him back after his being away from the House for two weeks. My question concerns the farm debt crisis which is facing many agricultural producers today. Over a month ago the Minister instituted a moratorium on Farm Credit Corporation foreclosures, but he has really taken no action to relieve the problem during this last month. Is the Minister preparing to bring in legislation before the Christmas recess, because the moratorium ends on January 15? If he does not, it is going to be seen as a cynical move to avoid farm bankruptcies during the Christmas recess.

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I take some satisfaction in the fact that the Hon. Member knew I was absent. The Hon. Member's allegation that nothing has been done with respect to the suspension of farm foreclosures by the FCC after January 15 is false. Since that time I have made an announcement concerning the utilization of the FCC appeal boards across the country. If FCC clients wish, they can appeal their cases to the appeal boards.

As well, in keeping with a campaign commitment, we are going forward with a pilot project involving the FCC, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, farmers, farm organizations and, indeed, traditional lending agencies. In addition to that, I made an announcement—

Mr. Speaker: With great respect to the Minister. Thank you.

PROPOSED UNITED STATES PROGRAM

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, over two months ago the Government of the United States instituted a set-aside-program to help active and productive producers get through the debt crisis. Are this Minister and this Government willing to institute a similar program for Canadian agricultural producers?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, my information is that the legislation to which the Hon.