

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

INCENTIVE GRANTS—ALLEGED MISUSE BY CERTAIN COMPANIES—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, in view of the seriousness of the charges raised by Dr. Springate which concern 11 companies and involve over \$34 million in public funds, and as these grants were made under the discretionary powers of the minister under RDIA, will the minister undertake an investigation into these charges?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, each application is thoroughly examined together with financial statements. For existing companies, we study not only the balance sheet for the current year, but for the three previous years, something which Dr. Springate never did, having himself recognized that in all cases, he interviewed only about—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McGrath: I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the charges that some of the applications were falsified, will the minister now undertake an investigation, or at least undertake to talk to Dr. Springate?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, if Dr. Springate or the member for St. John's East wish to tell us what company has admitted having falsified the applications, we are ready to lodge proceedings tomorrow morning.

[English]

Mr. McGrath: He will tell you.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are obviously getting into a debate. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce and then a representative of the group to my extreme left.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Communications. Considering the recent ruling of the Canadian Transport Commission authorizing increases in Bell telephone rates, will the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. My impression was that the hon. member was rising on a supplementary question. Obviously I was wrong. I think we should complete the first round of questioning before going to another matter.

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[Translation]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—RESULTS OF MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER AND PREMIER BOURASSA

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

Could he tell us whether he has met the Quebec premier in connection with the James Bay Indians and what have been the results of that meeting?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I expect to meet Mr. Bourassa tomorrow afternoon in Quebec City.

JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—ASSISTANCE TO INDIANS OPPOSED TO DEVELOPMENT—CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OTTAWA AND QUEBEC

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, as the Prime Minister invited me to do last Friday, I would like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Recently, a group of Indians from Northern Quebec requested the support of the federal government in order to stop the work on the James Bay project. Can the minister tell the House today whether the government intends to answer this request in the affirmative? If not, can he confirm again that his government is still prepared to co-operate in this project within authorized limits while giving adequate guarantees to the groups concerned?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): To the first part of the question, Mr. Speaker, I shall answer that I have, since then, met with the Indians in my office where we had discussions. They are not at this time asking that the work be stopped altogether; they would prefer a negotiated settlement. That is why I shall meet with Mr. Bourassa tomorrow in order to make sure that the interests of the James Bay Indians are well protected.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The right hon. member for Prince Albert.

Mr. Rock: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The right hon. member for Prince Albert has the floor.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF STUDY OF CAUSES ALLEGEDLY SUBMITTED TO PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. As I look at the serried ranks of the cabinet, with only 40 per cent of its members present, I have to direct this question to him. I wish to ask him whether or not the government will table the findings of a study into the causes of inflation from 1965 to 1970 said to have been placed on the desk of Mr. John Young, chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission, some months ago?

• (1430)

Hon. C. M. Drury (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of this report placed on the desk of