

Oral Questions

co-operative organization being formed is seeking to build on precisely the same terrain as Centennial Properties Limited. In view of this, may I ask the minister whether he will assist the co-operative instead of this not very reputable corporation?

Mr. Basford: I will obtain further information on the matter. I have no information regarding the co-operative group. The group which the hon. member suggests should not receive any money would receive a normal mortgage and would not receive any particular grant or subsidy. I will examine the co-operative application to see whether they should get an application of subsidy or grant.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER**STUDENT JOB PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURE**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, but in view of his absence I shall address it to his parliamentary secretary.

Seeing there is a shortage of qualified agricultural labour, which problem is of great concern to the farmers, can the minister or his secretary tell the House whether the details of the student employment program have been finalized and whether application forms will soon be available at the manpower centres?

[English]

Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): This program is in the process of being fully developed.

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GRAIN**POSSIBILITY OF FARMERS HAULING WHEAT BY TRUCK TO UNITED STATES**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Is the Wheat Board considering giving farmers the right to haul wheat by truck to the United States, particularly to the Minneapolis market, to take advantage of current high prices since it now seems certain that large amounts of wheat will not be delivered this year due to transportation difficulties?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): In the ordinary course the Canadian Wheat Board itself would take advantage of any export opportunities and would share those opportunities among producers through the quota system.

[Mr. Lewis.]

FINANCE**STATEMENT OF MINISTER CONCERNING LEVEL OF CORPORATE PROFITS AND NECESSITY TO PASS ON COST INCREASES**

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance based on a recent statement by the minister indicating that he felt corporate profits in certain industries had reached a point at which they were so healthy that it was not necessary for business to pass on to the consumer every increase in costs. Would the minister indicate the studies upon which this claim was based, and tell us what particular industries he had in mind?

● (1440)

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I reached that conclusion just from a review of the general profit picture which is available to every hon. member of this House through the statistics that are published regularly.

Mr. Stackhouse: In view of the difficulties that firms in the construction industry are having regarding the escalation of costs between the time of tendering and the time of fulfilling contracts, would the minister indicate whether the construction industry is an industry in which he thinks the profits are so healthy that businesses can absorb increases in costs?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, that is a matter of judgment upon which we may or may not act.

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FISHERIES**SEALS—ALLEGED LANDING OF HELICOPTERS CARRYING AMERICAN TOURISTS IN MIDDLE OF HERDS—REQUEST FOR RESCINDING OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING HUNT**

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries. Is the minister aware of the fact that helicopters carrying American tourists are landing in the middle of seal herds, thereby causing panic among the herds and danger to the landmen hunting the seals? If not, would he ask his colleague the Solicitor General to direct the RCMP to investigate this matter and to take the necessary action, since this contravenes a section of the Fisheries Act?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, allegations to that effect have been made and we are making investigations.

Mr. Carter: In view of the fact that the regulations imposed on the seal fishery by the minister were passed largely on the recommendation made to him and the government by one Brian Davies, the person now responsible for breaking the law, and in view of the fact the regulations have had a very serious effect on the economy in certain parts of eastern Canada, would the minister now undertake to have these regulations rescinded, thereby restoring the sealing industry to eastern Canada?