

*Oral Questions*

cannot believe that number of producers could be without quota.

When the Hon. Member brought this matter to my attention, 30 or 40 farmers were affected by a reduction in the quota. It is news to me that there are now 500. It is unbelievable that there would be 500 farmers without any quota.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Madam Speaker, for the information of the Minister, the statement has been made by the Chairman of the Alberta Dairy Control Board, Mr. Jim Gylander, that 400 to 500 of Alberta's dairy producers will be out of quota by the end of this month.

## MINISTER'S RESPONSIBILITY

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Madam Speaker, the Minister also undertook to look into those areas where there was undue hardship. He cannot weasel out of this; he has responsibility for the producers of Canada.

Does the Minister expect these producers to go bankrupt or is he going to undertake his responsibility and act on behalf of these producers? That is his responsibility.

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, I fully accept my responsibility to the dairy farmers of Canada. We have the best run policy in the world. Does the Hon. Member want something like what is going on in the United States where they are piling up mountains and mountains of produce and spending millions and millions of dollars on subsidies, but still do not know what to do with the produce? They are destroying the markets of other nations, markets that normally belong to Canada.

I met with the dairy farmers of Canada and they are still 100 per cent in accord with the dairy program we are running. They say it is fair under world conditions. The Hon. Member knows that world conditions have shown there is a tremendous surplus of dairy products in the world. Canada still has surplus conditions for industrial powder and butter under a manageable type of operation.

When the Hon. Member asks me to accept my responsibility, I would point out that I do not interfere in the operation of the dairy farmers' organization in Canada. They are running it, and they are doing a good job. It is too bad that they do not meet with the Hon. Member and inform him of what is going on.

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## FEDERAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK

## TREATMENT OF INDIAN APPLICANTS FOR LOANS

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister who is responsible for the Federal Business Development Bank, or his Parliamentary Secretary. The federal Government has long stated its concern for assisting Indian bands across the country with economic development. It has indicated its interest and support for the

development of industrial parks on the reserve lands where appropriate.

We find, however, that when businesses go to the lending institutions to support their applications to build a business on reserve lands, or to start a business in an industrial park on reserve lands, the chartered banks of Canada are willing to support them, other financial institutions are willing to support them, but the one bank that will not lend money, at least in British Columbia, on federal property or Indian lands is the Federal Business Development Bank. Could the Parliamentary Secretary explain why this discrimination is taking place?

• (1140)

**Mr. René Cousineau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Madam Speaker, I am pleased to say that the Government has definitely no policy against lending money to the Indians whether on the reserves or not.

**Mr. Riis:** Madam Speaker, I must say that I am aghast at that response. However, I want to—

**Madam Speaker:** It was a short answer. I would encourage the Hon. Member to ask a short question.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## REFUSAL OF LOANS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, this particular problem justifies more of a response than it has received. What I am saying is that at least in the Province of British Columbia—I have not had the opportunity to check in other Provinces—the Federal Business Development Bank is refusing to loan money to leaseholders on Indian lands. There are many, many businesses which are going to the FBDB requesting funds to start businesses on reserve lands and they are told there is no money available for any leaseholder on Indian reserve land. The chartered banks do not have that policy. Other lending institutions do not have that policy. If the parliamentary secretary is unaware of this policy, may I ask him to get in touch with the Federal Business Development Bank officials, and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and resolve this issue immediately?

[Translation]

**Mr. René Cousineau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member would like some explanations. I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that when an Indian on a reserve applies for a loan, the first problem he encounters is the fact that he does not own the land. I realize people would say that he could mortgage his house, and I agree that would be a possibility. The second problem, which is in fact the main one, is that a decision made by one band council is not necessarily binding on a subsequent council. This is a major obstacle