

*Oral Questions*

Commerce. If, as the Minister of National Revenue says, the answer is no, why does the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce not direct FIRA to say that those American corporations would not be considered as the viable operators of Canadian duty-free shops?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Madam Speaker, decisions under the Foreign Investment Review Act are not made by FIRA, they are made by the government. FIRA does not make decisions on the award of the right to operate duty-free shops, either at land points—which is a new program my colleague, the Minister of National Revenue, is instituting—or at airports, a program under the jurisdiction of my colleague, the Minister of Transport. The press report on which my hon. friend bases his question is, unfortunately, erroneous.

**An hon. Member:** What is the policy?

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● (1450)

**WESTERN DEVELOPMENT FUND**

## REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration, the minister responsible for the western development fund. This concept has been dangled in front of western Canadians for well over a year. There is certainly a growing skepticism and cynicism about a government which would be collecting taxes from western Canadians, laundering those taxes in some way, and delivering them back in the form of projects. Also, they see it as a potential for probably the greatest pork-barrelling anywhere ever. In order to reduce these fears, will the minister hold public hearings throughout centres in western Canada? If not, why not? If he is going to hold meetings, when will they be held and where?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member will recall that in the announcement of the program which the Minister of Finance made, there was a very clear commitment that discussions would be held with western Canadians concerning the application and use of the western development fund. I would point out to the hon. member that, contrary to the description that he provides, many westerners see this as an opportunity by which the federal government can play its rightful role in helping in the creative development of the economy in western Canada, to take advantage of the tremendous growth that is occurring in the west to the benefit of all Canadians. That is the purpose of the western fund, to ensure that the growth in that dynamic part of the country has a full share of the benefits.

## PURPOSES OF FUND

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap):** Recognizing that the government is committed to consultation, we on this side hope that consultation will occur at other than the official and bureaucratic level through the use of public hearings throughout western Canada. Will the minister explain to this House, so that there is clarification across the country, what the terms of reference of the western development fund will be?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I would again refer the hon. member to the statements which have been made previously, particularly those by the Minister of Finance which indicated that the purpose of the western development fund was to provide for major investment in social and economic development in western Canada so that the benefits can be shared by everybody across the country. Those are the basic terms of reference, to take advantage of the substantial growth that is taking place in the resource areas and to make sure that there are industrial, social and economic diversifications of those benefits. The federal government has always played a major and traditional role in transportation, railway development and other major areas to make sure that the growth in western Canada is not simply confined to one province and one group of people, but is broadly shared.

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**HEALTH**

## ADOPTION OF WORLD-WIDE CODE GOVERNING BABY FOOD MARKETING

**Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Hamilton West):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In May, 1981, the World Health Organization is proposing for adoption a marketing code on breast milk substitutes, which prohibits improper marketing of breast milk substitutes, to protect against infant death and to promote breast feeding, particularly in poverty stricken areas of the world where over dilution and bacterial contamination of the infant formula leads to malnutrition, disease and death. Is the Canadian government prepared to support adoption of such a code and consider accepting it as a regulation in this country?

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Madam Speaker, members of my department played an active role in the technical discussions leading up to that recommendation. I will have the pleasure of speaking on behalf of Canada at the World Health Organization annual meeting in early May at which time a vote will be taken. I am not sure just now in what form it will be recommended, or if it is called a regulation. I will have to find out the exact category that will be recommended to the annual meeting, and I will give that information to the hon. member.