

*Inquiries of the Ministry***HOUSING****POSSIBLE SUBSIDIZING OF INTEREST RATES  
AND PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS FOR LOWER  
INCOME GROUPS**

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister without Portfolio in charge of housing I address my question to the Minister of Finance. Has the government given consideration to the possibility of subsidizing interest rates and principal payments on mortgages for lower income groups and, if so, with what result?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the question as notice.

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION****REGINA AND SASKATOON—REQUEST FOR  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROGRAMS**

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion in the absence of the minister. In view of the time that has elapsed since the announcement that Regina and Saskatoon would be established as special areas under the program of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, will the Parliamentary Secretary indicate when there might be program announcements which would have the effect of giving some real meaning to the minister's earlier announcement?

**Mr. Martin P. O'Connell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, the designation of these two cities means that we are prepared to accept applications at any time for projects that will come forward.

**POLLUTION****LAKE HURON—SOURCE OF MERCURY  
CONTAMINATION—USE OF FISH FOR  
ANIMAL FOOD**

**Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Has the source of mercury contamination of fish in Lake Huron been determined, and if so, what action has been taken?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, one source has been determined definitely but there may be other sources.

[Mr. Marshall.]

**Mr. Noble:** In view of the fact that many tons of fish are being condemned, has any thought been given to carrying out the necessary research to determine whether mercury-contaminated fish might be used for animal food?

**Mr. Davis:** An investigation is under way but it is not conclusive, as yet, Mr. Speaker.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****JORDAN—INQUIRY AS TO FURTHER  
ASSISTANCE**

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will he advise whether there are in contemplation any further measures for assistance to Jordan, where the situation is grave?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as members of the House may know, we have recently made two grants for the relief of conditions in Jordan—a \$25,000 grant to the Red Cross and an additional \$150,000, I think, over and above the very large amount already granted for the assistance of refugees. We have no further requests under consideration. I believe it is considered that Canada has made a very generous contribution.

[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE****EGGS—INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—MEET-  
ING BETWEEN MINISTER AND QUEBEC AND  
ONTARIO REPRESENTATIVES**

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

I have no doubt that the Minister of Agriculture is aware of the open warfare between the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, or, as it were, between the egg and the hen, because the situation involves egg producers on the one part, and chicken producers on the other.

As it seems that only the Supreme Court could settle the question, I would like to know whether the Minister of Agriculture, in the best interest of both provinces involved, has tried to meet the representatives of those provincial governments or if he is planning to do so.

[English]

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, on several occasions. I