

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** I realize that our targets and accomplishments are high and that they may appear up in the air to the hon. gentleman, but we have been able to reach them on each occasion and I hope we continue to enjoy the same degree of success.

As to the specific question asked, we are not, of course, attempting to judge where people should live—that is a free choice to be made in this country—but we do work at making practical alternatives available. The specific example I can give the hon. member is the \$100 million commuter-rail program designed for new commuter projects which allow for decentralization so that people can live away from the major centres and yet have relatively easy access.

I could refer, also, to our housing programs, and I would be delighted to give the hon. member some details on these, but I am sure you would cut me off, Mr. Speaker. They are intended to provide an effective alternative of a family home for those who are prepared to live outside the larger cities. Present programs also recognize the difficulty young families experience in finding single family homes in major cities. We are making it possible for them to find attractive housing in more concentrated form—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Danson:** —in the major cities. This leaves, as a further alternative, the possibility of moving out from areas of major concentration.

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**ANTI-INFLATION ADMINISTRATOR****INQUIRY AS TO DECISION IN IRVING PULP AND PAPER CASE**

**Mr. Joe Flynn (Kitchener):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. Would he please tell us whether the administrator has made a decision in the Irving pulp and paper case.

**Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of National Revenue):** I thank the hon. member for letting me know he intended to ask this question. I have received a report which I shall be tabling at the appropriate time under Standing Order 41(2). The administrator has, in fact, found Irving Pulp and Paper in contravention of the anti-inflation guidelines and has ordered the company to make payments totalling \$125,000 to the Crown and set the per cent increase at 14. I might say that \$100,000 represents a portion of the payment and \$25,000 is a penalty for having knowingly contravened the guidelines.

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**FINANCE****ALLEGATION BANKS REFUSING FARM IMPROVEMENT LOANS—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. It has recently been brought to my attention that some of the banks in Canada have been refusing farm improvement loans to

[Mr. Alexander.]

farmers who are eligible for those loans. I should like to ask the minister whether this legislation is still on the books and whether the banks are supposed to adhere to it. The same thing happened about a year and a half ago and at that time, the hon. gentleman's predecessor made a statement in the House which improved the situation.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** I thank the hon. gentleman for bringing this matter to my attention. I would be glad to inquire further into it and if he has any specific examples which would assist me in this regard, I would be glad to hear about them.

**Mr. McKinley:** That is not really answering my question. Are the banks supposed to adhere to this legislation or not?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** The banks are supposed to adhere to all the legislation passed by parliament which refers to them. As to the specific question asked, the banks are not obliged to make a loan to anyone, irrespective of the quality of the risk. There is an element of judgment involved. As I said to the hon. member, if he has examples in mind I would be glad to have details and to pursue the matter.

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[Translation]

**NATIONAL PARKS****SAGUENAY—CONSULTATIONS WITH QUEBEC CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT**

**Mr. René Matte (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the President of the Treasury Board. Considering the minister's special interest in opening national parks in Quebec, would the minister tell the House if the federal government still intends to make arrangements with Quebec for establishing Saguenay Park?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, the federal government's position has not changed in four years. We would be very pleased to have a national park on Saguenay fjord and to include it among the most popular national parks in Canada.

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[English]

**FINANCE****REQUEST FOR REPORT ON AVAILABILITY OF SMALL BUSINESS LOANS**

**Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance if I may get his attention. While he is checking into the farm improvement loan situation will he also look into the availability or otherwise of small business loans which are also government guaranteed loans?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** I would be glad to do so, Mr. Speaker.