

*Inquiries of the Ministry***NATIONAL DEFENCE**

DELAY IN CLOSING OF BASES PENDING  
DISCUSSION WITH REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence arising from his statement on Monday that a number of bases may be closed in Canada. In view of the implications the minister's statement raised for areas suffering from economic difficulties, will he refrain from taking action on such possible closures until there has been full and sufficient consultation with the Standing Committee on Regional Development?

**Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, in my statement I think I made the commitment that no such decision will be taken until we have consulted the appropriate departments of government primarily concerned with regional development and manpower. We will do that.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could I direct the minister's attention to that part of my original question having to do with the Standing Committee on Regional Development? Will he study the effect such closures might have on economically depressed areas of the country?

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of National Defence assure the house, in view of his recent statement respecting the closing of certain military bases, that the government's consideration of the brief from the Newfoundland Canadian Legion supporting the establishment of a Canadian Forces base in Newfoundland will not be affected?

**HEALTH AND WELFARE**

MEDICARE—CHANGE IN POLICY RESPECTING  
INSURANCE COMPANIES PARTICIPATION

**Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare and his parliamentary secretary, may I direct my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the importance of the decision of the government of Ontario to enter the national medicare plan, can the Prime Minister indicate to the house whether there was a change in government policy regarding the participation of insurance companies as carriers in the medicare plan in Ontario?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That question ought to be placed on the order paper.

[Mr. Speaker.]

**HOUSING**

EXTENSION TO OTHER PROVINCES OF ONTARIO  
MORTGAGE PROGRAM

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister in charge of housing and arises from the action taken by Ontario with relation to second mortgages. Will the minister examine this program to see whether such a combined mortgage program can be extended to other provinces which have fewer resources than Ontario?

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, we welcome the announcement made yesterday by the minister of the Ontario government. I understand it was made after a considerable degree of recommendation by the Leader of the Opposition in that province. However, we will be glad to take a look at the implications of the announcement and see what can be done by other provinces. That will depend on the degree to which we are involved.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

RESULT OF PROGRAMS AND EXPENDITURES  
REVIEW

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. In view of the minister's statement that his department is reviewing its programs and projects for the current fiscal year, will he inform the house whether this review is now completed? If not, when will it be completed? If it has been completed, can he indicate in general terms the results of the review in regard to the programs and expenditures of his department?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, we have a pretty good idea what we are going to spend this coming year and in the two or three following years.

A question has already been asked in the house about the propriety of government spending at this time, when we are asking other people to hold back on their expenditures. My reply is that we are undertaking expenditures only in those areas where we think it is good business to do so. Instead of paying out in the city of Ottawa, as we are doing at the present time, \$18 million a year in rent we would much rather provide our own accommodation.

**Mr. Burton:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.