

Oral Questions

are some of the possibilities for the company in his riding to sell rail cars.

Mr. MacKay: Madam Speaker, I appreciate that answer.

PROSPECT OF ORDERS

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Madam Speaker, I gather that the Minister is telling us that there is a definite prospect of some orders in the not too distant future?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, there are definite prospects, but I want to introduce one caveat. The most important aspect to ensure success, and the main reason for the six and five program and many of our other programs, is that our industries must be competitive. There are tremendous prospects in the transportation sector all around the world. That is one of the reasons why we have been trying to encourage Canadians to be competitive in order that we maximize the potential benefits to employees all across the country.

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HOUSING

FUNDING FOR RENOVATION PROGRAM ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. Applicants for the RAPP-P Program for rental units in my constituency have been told that their proposal falls within the rules and guidelines but that no funding has been allocated for the Victoria area office in 1983. Could the Minister tell the House why no funds have been set aside for this kind of labour-intensive program on Vancouver Island during a time of record unemployment?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I do not have those facts in my mind at the moment, but I will check and inform the Hon. Member.

Mr. Manly: Madam Speaker, I would appreciate it if the Minister would look into this.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER SEEK FUNDING

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Madam Speaker, the RAPP-P Program does two things. It improves housing conditions for Canadian people and it stimulates the economy by promoting sales of goods and services and by providing employment.

If the Minister believes in the value of the RAPP-P Program, is he willing to go back to Cabinet and get decent funding, not only for Vancouver Island but for all Canada?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I am absolutely committed to the program of home renovation. In fact I think it is a very useful economic tool in

terms of job creation. It is for that reason that, in a statement he made in the House in October, the Minister of Finance allocated more money for it. The budget is allocated very fairly by region by officials of the corporation, but there are cases where that budget has been fully committed for the present fiscal year.

I will look into this and report to the Hon. Member, but surely his question should not reflect a lack of commitment on the part of a Government which has put almost \$1 billion into housing in 1982-83.

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AGRICULTURE

IMPACT OF LOST QUOTAS ON DAIRY FARMERS

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Madam Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. He knows that a number of farmers are facing bankruptcy and that a number are financially burdened by the difficulties they face. Included in this are a number of dairy farmers who have lost their market share quota, in many cases through no fault of their own. These dairy farmers are heavily penalized, to the extent of approximately \$28 per hectoliter for any production outside the market share quota. This further exacerbates their difficult position.

Is the Minister actively looking at this serious problem? Does he propose any interim measures to alleviate this very difficult situation for the dairy farmers?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I do not think we have received any official representation. I saw a report that the Hon. Member had met with dairy farmers in his constituency office. The administration of that Board comes under the authority of the Alberta Government, and the Alberta Marketing Board administers that program.

I understand that this is the first time in 12 years that they have faced a cutback in milk production in the Province of Alberta with the Board quota and the traded quota to other provinces before. That is strictly an administrative problem as far as I am concerned. They are saying that supply management does not work, but I am sure the Hon. Member knows that his Premier runs supply management. He will remember how he turned the valves down on oil and gas at one time.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mazankowski: Madam Speaker, I cannot imagine how the Minister of Agriculture can bring oil into a very difficult problem faced by the dairy farmers. The fact is that, whatever role the Dairy Board has in the Province of Alberta, it is functioning within the ambit of the total supply management concept.