

Inquiries of the Ministry

the medical profession and the medical educators. However, we do have the health resources fund now available to the provinces in terms of capital construction for medical education facilities. This fund is available to encourage such development, but I do not know what other leverage the federal government has.

Mr. Rynard: The Prime Minister has indicated that he is in favour of universities operating the year round. I am asking what grants the government is prepared to give to the universities to keep them operating?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, under post-secondary education funds we pay half the operating costs, and under the health resources fund we make moneys available for capital construction, so I do not know what other grants the hon. member is talking about.

Mr. Rynard: A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe the hon. member for Richmond—

Mr. Rynard: A supplementary question. Surely, the minister has grasped the fact that the academic year is not a calendar year.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is debate.

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FINANCE**EFFECT OF JAMES BAY POWER PROJECT ON EXCHANGE RATE OF CANADIAN DOLLAR—DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC**

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the great concern that the Canadian dollar should not rise too much above the American dollar, is the minister looking at the James Bay project to see what effect the cost of it would have on the Canadian dollar?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): No, we are not in this regard, Mr. Speaker, and I am pleased to note that the Canadian dollar has moved in the direction that I indicated I thought it would move.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That will be the first time you have been right, if you are.

Mr. Saltzman: Is it the intention of the Minister of Finance to discuss this matter with the appropriate officials in the province of Quebec with a view to seeing what effect it would have on the Canadian dollar?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I shall consider the hon. member's suggestion.

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INDUSTRY**PULP AND PAPER—SPECIAL PLANS TO OFFSET EFFECTS OF SHUTDOWNS**

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): My question is for the right hon. Prime Minister and is a follow-up to

the question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Fandy-Royal about the lay-offs at Bathurst, New Brunswick. Is the government in a position today or tomorrow to give some indication of any special plans they might have for this area? I realize there was a statement made when the meeting was held with Premier Hatfield, but is there any reason for optimism for this area before the word is out?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I shall look into this matter, Mr. Speaker.

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SECRETARY OF STATE**AID TO REGINA JUNIOR LIONS BAND TO PARTICIPATE IN TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE**

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State on the very important matter I discussed with him a couple of weeks ago. In light of the signal honour which has been accorded to the Regina Junior Lions Band in that they have been invited to participate in the 83rd Tournament of Roses Parade at Pasadena, California, on January 1, can the minister say whether a reasonable grant from one of the travel programs under his jurisdiction has been made to this band in order that they may be able to avail themselves of this wonderful opportunity to help develop good international relations? If not, can the minister indicate whether—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have to interrupt the hon. member. This kind of question ought not to be asked at this time. If the minister can reply briefly I shall allow it, but we are trying to get through the question period and many members are seeking an opportunity to ask questions. We should try to make the questions brief and also the replies, but the minister can reply briefly.

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): As briefly as I can put it, Mr. Speaker, the project was submitted to us. It does not fit the criteria of any one of the travel programs but we are examining whether we can admit it in some other way.

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GRAIN**POSSIBLE USE OF UNIT TRAINS TO INCREASE LOADINGS AT WEST COAST TERMINALS**

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): I should like to direct a question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the fact that maximum monthly loadings at west coast terminals have been in the neighbourhood of 28 millions bushels, and in view of the fact that commitments have been made to load some 37 million bushels in December and the indications are that commitments for January and February will be the same or even more, is the minister giving any consideration to making use of unit hopper car trains to fill the gap?