

Oral Questions

ter of Energy, Mines and Resources has some idea about energy, but I think he is talking about biomass material.

REQUEST FOR PROGRAM TO ASSIST YOUNG PEOPLE
WISHING TO BE FARMERS

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that capitalization costs for young farmers have increased by 66 per cent in the past ten years and young farmers cannot always get Farm Credit Corporation loans or afford 10 per cent plus interest rates, will the minister be announcing a program soon to help young farmers stay on the farm or get started in farming?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the record shows that more young farmers have received farm credit loans this year than for many years. We are working on a program. We will be meeting with our provincial counterparts to discuss this program on how we can aid more young people who really want to enter farming or remain in farming to do that.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

OPERATION AT LOSS BY SUBSIDIARY, GRAND TRUNK
RAILWAY, OF COMMUTER SERVICE BETWEEN PONTIAC
AND DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Peel South): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware that the Grand Trunk Railway, a subsidiary of Canadian National Railways, is running a subsidized commuter service because of losses, into Detroit from Pontiac, Michigan?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice.

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. Is it the minister's intention to instruct CNR and Grand Trunk officials to seek subsidies from the American government rather than CNR?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I will answer the same as I did for the first question.

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PENITENTIARIES

POSSIBLE USE OF PROVINCIAL INSTITUTION AT BOWDEN,
ALBERTA—RETENTION OF STAFF

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Solicitor General. As the Solicitor General has said that negotiations are taking place with the provinces with a view to improving accommodation for prisoners, can he inform the House whether greater use is to be made of provincial correctional institutions such as the one at Bowden, Alberta and, if so, will present staff be retained?

[Mr. Whelan.]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the Bowden institute is one of the provincial institutions we are looking at. We have not concluded any negotiations or agreement so far. I cannot tell the hon. member what may happen to the provincial staff if we take over such institutions. I would have to look into it.

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MANPOWER

POSSIBLE UNIFICATION OF LOCAL INITIATIVES AND
OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS—
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State whose visits to the House are always welcome. Is it the intention of the government to unite the LIP and OFY programs into one new program and, if so, will that new program be administered by the Department of the Secretary of State?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows full well, this is now a subject of discussion between my department and the Department of Manpower and Immigration. With regard to the snide reference to my absence for the past few days, I might point out to the hon. member that I was out west and I had a marvellous reception.

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FINANCE

ALLEGED HIGH INTEREST RATES ON LOANS TO FARMERS

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister relating to the reports last week of high interest rates being paid by rural borrowers. In light of the fact the Minister of Finance was asked to report to the House on this matter, can the Prime Minister indicate whether the government has received any report yet?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I cannot answer this question. I have not discussed the matter recently with the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Lawrence: Can the Prime Minister indicate if an investigation has yet been made?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker. I do not call my ministers every other hour to see if they are doing what they said they would do.