

After a preliminary assessment, DRIE plans to assist in several ways: First, free business counselling will be provided through the sector and financial expertise of the Ontario regional office or the CASE service of the Federal Business Development Bank.

Second, DRIE has posted officers to work out of the Barrie branch of FBDB with responsibility for the immediate assessment of damage to business. They will assist business with reconstruction efforts, through the whole range of the Department's activities and, if shortages of essential building materials develop, DRIE's network will be used to locate supplies throughout Canada.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) will establish a \$3 million central Ontario tornado damage business development program to encourage modernization and expansion in the affected area. The fund is designed to go beyond insurance and other aid as an inducement for businesses to seize the opportunity to expand and to upgrade their operations beyond simple replacement of storm damage. The fund will help generate additional long-term jobs and will contribute positively to the strengthening and future prosperity of the affected communities. Assistance will be available up to a maximum 35 per cent of eligible capital costs for firms which can demonstrate viability and significant economic benefits. The Department will discuss future prospects with affected firms, which should make their business plans known by September 30, 1985. In addition, the Minister has asked the FBDB to consider temporary payment deferral or reamortization for affected customers' loans in the same manner as does the Farm Credit Corporation.

Several dozen units of temporary housing have been made available through Canadian Forces Base, Borden. Additionally, 700 soldiers from the base have done a superb job in assisting, and over \$25,000 in goods and services have been provided.

My Ministry, the Department of National Revenue, will treat donations to recognized disaster relief agencies or to municipalities as tax deductible. We believe that this measure will give added incentive for Canadians to contribute to rebuilding the damaged area. As well, recognizing that many financial records have been lost, I have instructed my officials to assist any person or business unable to provide supporting documents for tax purposes.

Both Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Department of Public Works have arranged to have inspectors in the area. CMHC will assist with identifying restorable buildings and help local officials with the issuing of building permits. The Department of Public Works will assess damage to public infrastructure.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

NON-COMPLIANCE BY MINISTER WITH ACT

Hon. Duff Roblin (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on May 9 last by the Honourable Senator Godfrey regarding Regional Development Incentives—non-compliance by Minister with Act.

(The answer follows:)

The Regional Development Incentives Act (RDIA), which was passed in 1969, specified that no development incentive may be provided under the Act unless the project could be in commercial production by December 31, 1984.

Section 16 of the Act requires that the Minister submit a monthly report to Parliament respecting the administration of that Act.

The RDIA Act has not yet been repealed. The Act is silent on when you may stop reporting on the administration of the Act. However, since no new offers can be made under the Act, there is little useful purpose to table a report every month indicating that no applications were received, no offers were made or accepted, but a few payments on older projects were made.

Tabled September 17th, the December 1984 RDIA monthly report to Parliament informs the members that no further reports will be forthcoming. However, Members of Parliament could request statistical information on any and all RDIA projects at any time.

CROWN CORPORATIONS DISSOLUTION AUTHORIZATION BILL

SECOND READING

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Kelly, seconded by the Honourable Senator MacDonald (*Halifax*), for the second reading of the Bill C-60, intitled: "An Act to authorize procurement of the dissolution of certain Crown corporations and to amend or repeal other Acts in consequence thereof".—(*Honourable Senator Sinclair.*)

Hon. Ian Sinclair: Honourable senators, it is unfortunate that Senator Kelly is not in the chamber, but those present can understand my interest in this bill. When I was told there was to be a bill introduced dealing with the dissolution of crown corporations, knowing that there were approximately 400 of them having a book value of approximately \$190 billion, an amount great enough to wipe out the deficit, I looked forward to the legislation.

Knowing that Senator Kelly, bearing in mind his background, would not deal with trivialities, I was absolutely astounded to learn that what Senator Kelly was dealing with was housekeeping, and that he had a very small broom. The