

hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings, and in view of the legitimate widespread concern that the commission and staff take a clear corporate line, will the Acting Prime Minister undertake to broaden the commission to bring in people who have a background other than just with corporations?

Mr. Sharp: On a matter of this kind, Mr. Speaker, it is important that the people making the inquiries should be very familiar with the problems. The government has no intention of enlarging or dropping any member from the commission.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INDONESIA—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE THAT LOAN FUNDS REACH THE PEOPLE IN NEED

Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is the minister in a position to indicate to the House the specifics or conditions of the recent loan by the government of Canada to Indonesia? In particular, do the conditions ensure that the funds or the results of the funds will get down to the people who need them and will not be siphoned off by the powerful elite of that country?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, a press release was issued on the details of the loan to Indonesia following a general agreement made between Canada and Indonesia when the president of Indonesia was in this country a year ago. I believe I would be doing the hon. member a better service if I sent him the material directly rather than attempting to recall it now.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT BY MINISTER ON PENSIONS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the government House leader. In view of the January 28 and February 3 statements in this House by the Minister of Veterans Affairs that he would make an announcement concerning the unanimous report of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs relating to former prisoners-of-war within two weeks of the former date, a period which is expiring, will the House leader give the paring knife to someone who knows how to trim the fat from less essential programs in order to re-allocate funds toward implementation of that report, thus enabling the Veterans Affairs Minister to satisfactorily fulfill that commitment?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I should say to hon. members that this question is still under consideration in cabinet. I know it had been the intention of the Minister of Veterans Affairs to make a statement tomorrow. I do not know whether in fact

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this will be possible since the matter is still being considered in cabinet.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Shame!

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

DATE OF AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Since the minister has very quickly come to an agreement with the new government of British Columbia regarding highway expansion in northern British Columbia, something that did not happen with the old government, and since there is not an agreement between the federal government and the government of British Columbia with regard to DREE grants, the only province in Canada that does not have an agreement, when will an agreement be made with the province of British Columbia and what form will it take?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, indeed I had the honour to be in Victoria last Monday and to meet with the minister responsible for development as well as with the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Phillips, with whom I signed an agreement for the development of a road system. We also took the opportunity of this first meeting to consider the development possibilities within this big and magnificent province. I hope that during the next weeks, our officials, federal as well as provincial, will have the opportunity to get in touch and that they will be in a position to make recommendations. The minister and myself agreed to meet again, next May or June, and at that time some decisions will probably be taken. Obviously, we have to wait until such time to announce them.

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[English]

TRANSPORT

REQUESTED REVIEW OF GRADE CROSSINGS IN SCARBOROUGH

Mr. Alan Martin (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. It now being some two months since the fatal train/bus tragedy in Scarborough, will the minister indicate what steps have been taken to review the adequacy of existing safety standards at the 35 level crossings in the borough of Scarborough where grade separations are not yet in place, including the site of the tragedy?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the same standards of safety and review are applied throughout the country, having regard to the kind of traffic that presents itself. Much of the initiative in relation to grade separation, of course, rests with municipal bodies, although we have a facility for assisting in a very major way with these matters. We have, as the hon. member knows, made some progress in improving grade separa-