

*Regulations and Statutory Instruments*

Freedom of information is also supported by an impressive number of groups and organizations whose views should not have to be repeated, like the CLC, the Canadian Bar Association, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and dozens of others, including consumers' associations, library associations, community workers, newspaper associations and unions. In fact the entire spectrum of political, economic, and social groups have a consensus favouring a more open and honest system of government.

There are those who stand in the path of this progress—a small group of willful, perverse, and arrogant people, who say, "Why should the public and parliament know what we know or why we act? It is for us to rule and for them to obey". And so they frustrated the unanimous wish of this House, flouted the views of all the organizations I have mentioned, went against the recommendations of their own advisers on this matter, and even rejected the twice-expressed position of their own national party. They are saying no to a motherhood issue, which makes me wonder what secrets must be protected by such obstructionism. I am sure that I am not the only one who wonders.

● (1532)

There is a particularly valid reason for speeding up the proposal to restore a more open face to government at this time. The absolute breakdown of trust and confidence in the apparatus of government is the most alarming phenomenon of our times. Unless this situation is repaired at once, if it can be, we are unlikely to get out of the swamp in which we are bogged down.

Tonight I sincerely wish the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) good fortune with his budget. But I suggest anything he proposes will be worthless unless it is accepted as being credible, and there is the rub. Until this and other governments can restore credibility and truthfulness his proposals and programs are unlikely to succeed.

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion is by Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton). The hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis).

**Mr. Lloyd Francis (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, I would just like to rise and say that I have acted as chairman of an all-party committee which has been concerned about freedom of information. Certainly I feel that the efforts which the government has made in producing the paper which was referred to committee, the terms of reference of the committee, the hearings that have taken place, and the statements made by a number of responsible persons, indicate the concern of members on this side of the House as well as of members on the other side of the House on this matter.

I know the hon. member who has just spoken is impatient with these matters. We recognize his great interest, of long standing, but I also recognize that good legislation arises out of the process of careful examination of what is really not a simple business but a complicated business. Those of us who

[Mr. Baldwin.]

are concerned about it are determined that progress should be made.

I support the general principle of this resolution and I hope it will receive acceptance. I hope that perhaps in some way it will expedite the work of another parliament which must inevitably come to grips with it.

Motion agreed to.

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**QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER**

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. Roger Young (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I have the answers to some 47 questions, and perhaps that will help to alleviate some of the concern expressed by the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker). The following questions will be answered today: Nos. 837 to 880 inclusive, and questions Nos. 1,176, 1,178 and 1,196.

[Text]

ARDA ASSISTANCE IN MANITOBA

Question No. 837—**Mr. Epp:**

1. Who was the head or chief representative of the Delta Fishermen's Federation in Manitoba at the time when the organization received funding under the Federal-Provincial ARDA Programme?

2. (a) How many people were employed as a result of the grant and for what period of time (b) how many are presently employed?

**Mr. Donald Wood (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** The reply for the Department of Regional Economic Expansion is as follows: 1. In September of 1973, when Special ARDA assistance was offered to Delta Fishermen's Federation I, the head representative was Mr. Gilbert Ducharme, president.

2. (a) Thirty-nine members of Delta Fishermen's Federation I were able to engage in commercial fishing during the contract period and improved their incomes as a result. (b) At the time of expiration of the Special ARDA contract on March 31, 1975, all members were still registered as commercial fishermen.

Question No. 838—**Mr. Epp:**

1. Who was the head or chief representative of the Delta Local Fur Council in Manitoba at the time when the organization received funding under the Federal-Provincial ARDA Programme?

2. (a) How many people were employed as a result of the grant and for what period of time (b) how many are presently employed?

**Mr. Donald Wood (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** The reply for the Department of Regional Economic Expansion is as follows: 1. In February of 1974, when Special ARDA assistance was offered to Delta Local Fur Council I, the head representative was Mr. Gilbert Ducharme, president.