

involving a water lot owned in the name of the Municipality of West Vancouver which Mr. Sewell has leased from a previous marine operator. I can assure the Hon. Member that Transport Canada and the new owner, Mr. Sewell, are making every effort to ensure that these fishermen continue to have adequate moorage in that location.

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FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

INDUSTRIAL MORTGAGES IN ALBERTA—ALLEGED DIRECTIVE FROM INSURANCE COMPANIES

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance. Is the Minister aware that certain large Canadian insurance companies which have mortgage departments have informed their branches recently that so far as industrial mortgages are concerned no new money is to be lent in Alberta due to the province's economic difficulties? If the Minister knows about the situation, is there any action that he can take to ensure that industrial growth in Alberta is not curtailed as a result of this directive?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I am very glad that the Hon. Member has asked that question. It gives me an opportunity to tell her that I have been able to make some preliminary inquiries. I have not yet found any instances of any blanket lending freezes in Alberta, or anywhere else, although I have found some instances in which institutions will be reviewing their lending practices in light of certain regional economic problems.

I wish to take this occasion to tell the Hon. Member that the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and the Federal Business Development Bank are studying this matter. The Federal Business Development Bank hopes to be very active in this regard. Both the bank and the Minister are looking at this situation very carefully.

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BANKS AND BANKING

CHARTERED BANKS' USE OF VARIABLE INTEREST RATES

Mr. Jack Scowen (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. What is the Government advising individuals and companies to do who feel that Canadian chartered banks have overcharged them interest and, in some cases, most substantially? As the Minister is aware there has been at least one court case in which the court has agreed with the bank customer.

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, last week I answered questions similar to the one asked by the Hon. Member. To repeat the answer, the courts

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have proven to be the best place to deal with these situations. In some cases variable rates have been upheld and in others fixed rates have been upheld. The question of a constituent having to put down a deposit with the bank in order to have an inquiry made is something that concerns me. The issue is whether these charges are reasonable and reflect the actual costs of doing this type of research.

I want to say to the Hon. Member that if he has a constituent who feels that he has been wrongfully dealt with in this way, will he please get in touch with me. Perhaps after that it might be useful for me to get in touch with the institution concerned.

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EASTER RECESS

MR. SPEAKER'S INVITATION TO RECEPTION

Mr. Speaker: I would like to advise Hon. Members that in view of the fact that Parliament is breaking for the Easter recess there will be the usual reception in Room 16. I hope that Hon. Members who wish to meet together might be there from 5.30 p.m. on.

I now have a ruling to deliver, one which has been long awaited by the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier.

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[Translation]

PRIVILEGE

THE RIGHT OF MEMBERS TO HAVE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE HOUSE PUT TO A VOTE—MR. SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: On December 4, 1986, the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) raised a point of order concerning the right of members to ask for a recorded division, notwithstanding Standing Order 9(1). The Hon. Member also asked for clarification of the Chair's decision to declare a motion lapsed at the usual time of adjournment. On April 9 last Thursday, the Hon. Member raised another point of order when the Chair declared another motion lapsed at the time of interruption for lunch.

In the course of his comments, the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier quoted Section 49 of the British North America Act which to him means that when a question is before the House, it shall be decided by a recorded division. The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier also referred to Beauchesne's, Citation 217, which describes the practice of having the Party whips march up the aisle and bow to the Speaker to indicate their members are ready to vote.