

Inquiries of the Ministry

basis for the moment, since specific requests have not yet reached the federal government.

I should say also that the affected homes are insured for the most part under the National Housing Act. The minister responsible for Housing and Urban Affairs is aware of the situation and has sent representatives there.

For the moment, the government has indicated its complete desire to help the victims. Units of the Canadian Forces are on the spot, as I said earlier, and we are expecting further reports from our staff. And if, of course, requests come in from the municipal or provincial government, the federal government is ready to help as much as possible.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I should like—

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for York South have a supplementary question?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and in my own name I would like to express our sympathy to the families of the victims of this disaster.

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, may I also proffer my sincere condolences to the afflicted families of St. Jean-Vianney. I know that locality very well having visited it on several occasions. I also express my condolences to the representative for the riding which includes St. Jean-Vianney. I am sure the whole population of Canada was dismayed this morning on learning the bad news.

Mr. Gilles Marceau (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, on behalf of the people of St. Jean-Vianney, who will certainly appreciate very much the fact that the members of the House of Commons sympathize with them in the terrible disaster they have just suffered.

I should like to extend officially my heartfelt condolences to the stricken families and to inform this House of the magnitude of the disaster. There were 34 houses completely buried, 25 casualties and more than \$2 million worth of damages.

Therefore, I urge the government to take speedy action, in these circumstances, and I intend to ask as soon as possible for financial assistance from the government.

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[English]

FINANCE**CO-ORDINATION OF ECONOMIC IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether, in view of the emphasis given to the matter by the chairman of the Economic Council of Canada and others, he proposes to adopt any new measures to assure a greater co-ordination of the economic impact of the various departments of the government in which he is Minister of Finance?

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the economic impact of the various departments that are in the economic field, the government believes that there is ample co-ordination at the present time in that there is constant consultation between the ministers involved and they are on a committee which deals with economic matters.

Mr. Stanfield: In view not only of the emphasis placed on this question yesterday by the chairman of the Economic Council but also the emphasis placed on it by the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, will the minister not treat it as an urgent matter to re-examine the co-ordination, or is he in fact satisfied to have the efforts of his colleague, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, offset by his own rather ham-handed efforts?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, without referring to ham-handed efforts, on which the hon. gentleman across the way is an expert, I would simply like to say that we are constantly looking at the co-ordination of policies.

INCLUSION OF LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS OF ECONOMIC TARGETS IN BUDGET

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the remarks of the chairman of the Economic Council may I ask the Minister of Finance whether it is his intention when he brings down his budget to make in addition to short-term projections, long-term projections of economic targets?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to say that the hon. member will have to wait for the budget speech.

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POWER**PROPOSED JAMES BAY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT—DISCUSSIONS WITH QUEBEC FINANCE MINISTER ON METHOD OF FINANCING**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. I realize that the development of the James Bay project which is being discussed is a provincial matter, but in view of its importance to the entire economy I would like to ask the Minister of Finance whether there have been any discussions between the federal and provincial governments, and particularly between himself and the Minister of Finance of Quebec regarding the method of financing this very expensive project over the next ten years?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, there have not been such consultations to date but I should indicate that the government is very much interested in the matter and I presume we will be discussing the financial effects on the Canadian economy in due course.

Mr. Lewis: Will the minister inform the House whether he will take the initiative to have such discussions in