

wheelchairs, are able to work? Does he not feel that there should be an extension of the concept of "disabled" so that other people who are unable to work can have the same kind of tax deduction?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is asking essentially the kind of question which should normally be dealt with in a budget. I will take his question as a representation.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

DEFENCE RESEARCH—STATUS OF PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT FACILITIES IN WINNIPEG

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence, and it is in connection with Manitoba's concern about an announced intention not to proceed with construction of a defence research establishment in Winnipeg. I would like to ask the minister what the status of that particular establishment is at the present time, since it was indicated to Manitobans by the former minister of national defence that this would be one of the priorities the government would be looking at.

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, that project is in temporary suspension, primarily because I want to take a look at the rationalization of the scientific research and development and industrial processes in the Department of National Defence in relation to our other industrial efforts. I think we want to look for things which will serve the best long term interests of Winnipeg and all of western Canada and also to rationalize our defence purchasing so that it is to the best advantage of Canadian industry and the armed forces.

Mr. Murta: If that is the case, the conclusion must then be drawn that the announcement of the former minister was purely political. If there has been a postponement, is it still the intention of the government to locate the research centre in Winnipeg or in Manitoba if the project goes ahead?

Mr. Danson: I think that if there is a need for that facility, it will go ahead as planned by my predecessor, certainly in the interests of the people of Manitoba and western Canada, but I am taking a somewhat different look at these establishments right across the country at the present time.

Mr. Murta: I would like to ask one short supplementary question. What time frame does the minister have for the decision? In other words, when can we expect the decision as to whether there will be a defence research establishment built in Manitoba?

Mr. Danson: My colleague, the minister from Manitoba, is continually asking the same questions, but much more forcefully. I do not want to give a deadline. I have a task to do, and I want to pursue it properly. I do not want to set any artificial

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limits to which I cannot adhere. I am having discussions with my colleagues, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of State for Science and Technology, so that we can have a rational program which serves the interests of the country well. I hope that this can be completed within six months or a year. I hope it will not take longer.

An hon. Member: Just before the election.

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IMMIGRATION

REFUSAL TO ALLOW PROFESSOR GUNDER-FRANK INTO CANADA—SUGGESTION FILE BE SHOWN TO OPPOSITION PRIVY COUNCILLOR

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, and it concerns a matter I have raised with the minister and with his office on several occasions, namely, the refusal by the government to allow Professor Gunder-Frank, an internationally known scholar, to take part in a symposium on world development at Queen's University.

Given that the minister has received many representations to reverse his decision because of the very real bewilderment and dismay at his flat refusal to admit Dr. Gunder-Frank with no explanation, given that we on this side of the House have consistently stressed the need for freedom of information legislation, and until that worthwhile goal is achieved would the minister undertake to show the file on Dr. Gunder-Frank to a Privy Councillor on the opposition side of the House for another assessment of the case so that it can be ascertained in an impartial manner whether there are indeed justified grounds for the minister's refusal?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, one of the things which concerns me and about which I feel very strongly is academic freedom. I understand that the lecture of Dr. Gunder-Frank will be given but will be read by someone else, so there is no closing out of his ideas.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: How generous.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): This is one of the funniest question periods I've ever seen.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, I do not think the opposition is really serious; I am really sorry.

Mr. Alexander: You don't have anything else to say.

Miss MacDonald: I wonder if the minister would address himself to the question I put with regard to whether this file