

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

INCENTIVE GRANT TO ATHABASCA FOREST INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Mr. A. C. Cadieu (Meadow Lake): My question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has the government agreed to provide a \$12 million special area development incentive grant to Athabasca Forest Industries Limited and if so, when will these funds be made available?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we are faced with an extremely important application which the department is studying. I cannot, at this point, say whether our response will be positive, or to what extent.

[English]

Mr. Cadieu: Is the government delaying a final decision because of representations by executives of other Canadian paper companies and, if not, will the minister make a statement to clarify where it now stands on this important loan?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, we will be considering all aspects of this application. I cannot at this time say what the response will be.

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[English]

FINANCE

EFFECT OF UNPEGGED DOLLAR ON INDUSTRIES—DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC AND OTHER PROVINCES

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): My question is for the Minister of Finance. Has the Minister of Finance had a meeting with Premier Bourassa, or has the premier of the province of Quebec requested a meeting to discuss, among other things, the effect that the continued unpegging of the Canadian dollar has had on major industries in Quebec? In addition, have there been any such observations or requests by premiers of other provinces?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): In the likely event that representations are made with regard to the impact on particular industries, has the government any plan to alleviate the heavy damage that has been suffered by certain industries?

Mr. Benson: I would say, without accepting the generality, that we are always willing to listen to people.

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): In view of the uncertainty caused by the continuing rise in the value of the Canadian dollar, will the government make a statement

Inquiries of the Ministry

on its policy with regard to any further appreciation in the value of our dollar?

Mr. Benson: No, Mr. Speaker.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

PUBLICATION OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA ON DESIGNATED AREAS

Mr. Paul St. Pierre (Coast Chilcotin): My question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, and arises from the request of the British Columbia government that certain selective correspondence regarding special area designation in British Columbia be made public. Will the minister assure the House that all the correspondence in this matter between his department and the B.C. government will be made public?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, there is no reason whatever against publication of all the correspondence exchanged between the two governments, but we will follow the usual procedure whereby before releasing any document we solicit the consent of provincial authorities.

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[English]

FINANCE

EFFECTIVENESS OF LOANS AND GRANTS FOR WORKS PROJECTS—DISCUSSION WITH MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In light of complaints by the chairman of the Metropolitan Council of Toronto that federal loans and grants for works projects are so hedged about by conditions that they are useless and unacceptable, will the Minister of Finance consult with Mr. Campbell and other municipal authorities with a view to making these federal loans and grants effective in promoting employment which is so urgently needed?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): We have made the funds available and many of the provinces have taken advantage of them. I understand that the Ontario government, after the difficulties they have had in deciding who is going to lead the party, is finally coming forward and requesting funds. The process is a very simple one. We want to make sure that these funds go into useful capital works which will provide employment.

Mr. Bell: You haven't even got a party in Ontario.

Mr. Brewin: My supplementary question is a repetition of the first question which the minister did not answer. Will he consult with the chairman of the Metropolitan Toronto Council on how to make these loans and grants effective?