

Oral Questions

Businesses Loans Act as a method of rationing funds to borrowers?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Darling: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact it is always the little guy, whether an individual or a small businessman, who is hit the hardest by more stringent credit conditions, and who is unable to protect himself by such actions as borrowing abroad, will the minister tell the House whether the Governor of the Bank of Canada is prepared to use moral suasion in order to ensure that banks do not cut off small business?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I would be prepared to discuss that with the governor.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**EFFECT OF PROPOSED GUARANTEE OF SUPPLY TO MILK PROCESSING PLANTS ON DECISION ON CROCUS FOODS**

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion on our favourite subject, Crocus Foods. In view of the Manitoba government's recent decision not to go ahead with Crocus Foods, can the minister indicate whether the special provision that his department placed before the Manitoba government, namely, that the government should guarantee that the present milk processing plants would continue to receive the same milk supply at their present levels, was a condition the Manitoba government could not meet?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell the hon. member whether the conditions contained in the offer led the government to decide against going ahead with the project. I would be rather inclined to think instead that the overall situation influenced its decision. I could not say that it was one specific reason or another. Of course, there is the general state of the market; there are surpluses at the present time; perhaps there are other reasons the hon. member is probably aware of as well as I am, if not more so, which forced the government into the decision it took.

[English]

**ALLEGED ABANDONMENT OF CROCUS FOODS' PLANT—
POSSIBILITY OF NEW APPLICATION**

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, in view of the decision by the Manitoba government, has the DREE offer to Crocus Foods now lapsed, and if a new project were to be undertaken by the Manitoba government would an entirely new application have to be made to the department?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, there are legal technicalities involved, and I think that I shall refrain from making any

[Mr. Darling.]

comments. Obviously, first we must wait for people directly informed or involved, that is to say the Manitoba Dairy Producers' Marketing Agency, who are supposed to communicate officially their decision to me. The information we have had to this date is that which was given by the Manitoba agriculture minister himself when he replied to a question in the legislative assembly of Manitoba about ten days ago. For my part, I have not received from the minister involved official confirmation that the project as such had been abandoned other than the information that he gave himself to the press and the legislative assembly. I must therefore wait to see what will happen next.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**ACTION TO OPPOSE ARREST OF DR. EMILIO DI IPOLA AND HIS
WIFE IN ARGENTINA**

Mr. Serge Joyal (Maisonneuve-Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and in his absence, I would like to address it to his parliamentary secretary.

First, does the Secretary of State for External Affairs intend taking particular measures to protest against the arrest of two eminent professors of the United Nations University in Argentina, Dr. Emilio di Ipola and his wife, which arrest violated the International Bill of Rights and greatly disturbed French universities in Canada, especially in Quebec, where the two eminent professors have taught?

Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform my colleague that the Department of External Affairs was informed of this matter by Canadians last Friday and that a note expressing our concern about an act apparently committed by terrorists against these people has been sent to the chargé d'affaires for Argentina in Ottawa.

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[English]

HEALTH**PRODUCTION OF SWINE FLU VACCINE IN CANADA—
GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, since Canada had representation at the meeting of influenza experts, convened by the World Health Organization in Geneva last Thursday, concerning swine flu, and in view of the fact the experts at the meeting indicated that vaccine would be available in some countries only in small quantities and in some countries not at all, would the Minister of National Health and Welfare indicate whether as a result he may be reconsidering his decision not to produce very much vaccine in Canada, and at least on moral grounds will he reverse that decision to produce in order to increase the world supply of this product?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I have almost become desperate