

Oral Questions

financial interests in corporations involved in land dealings and real estate?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the purpose of the letter was to inform people that he would not be associated with that building, and the proposals with regard to Mr. Teron are that he divest himself of any active investment companies.

Mr. Harney: Is the minister aware of the fact that Mr. Teron promised in his letter to send another letter to the lobbies in a few months, and would the minister agree that a blind trust, as mentioned by the Prime Minister in the House the other day, amounts to throwing a blanket over an elephant in the hope that it will disappear?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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FINANCE**LOANS BY BANKS TO FARMERS, SMALL BUSINESSMEN AND FISHERMEN—POSSIBLE ENLARGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE**

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George—Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In light of the difficulties in which chartered banks find themselves due to the large increase in Bank of Canada interest rates, can the minister tell the House whether it is the intention of the government to negotiate with the banks a formula under which the government would allow a further subsidy and guarantee of repayment of loans made to farmers, small businessmen and fishermen?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not agree with the substance of the preamble, nor with the proposed solution. As I said yesterday, the government will be announcing its decision shortly.

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FISHERIES**LOSSES SUFFERED BY ATLANTIC AREA FISHERMEN FROM STORM—GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE**

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries. It has to do with the effect of the severe storms on fishermen in the Atlantic region almost two weeks ago. Can he tell us what the government has been doing to delineate federal and provincial responsibilities with regard to possible aid, and what co-ordination there is in this regard at present?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, discussions have been going on among the department here and with the provincial departments of fisheries. We have decided, for example, to make the gear that was collected last year from salmon fishermen available, on reasonable terms, to fishermen. Other measures will be announced in due course.

[Mr. Harney.]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**MULTIPURPOSE WATER PROJECT PROGRAM—PROVINCIAL APPROVAL**

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Yesterday I put a question to the minister asking whether agreement had been reached with the provinces with regard to the water development program PFRA which would involve concentration on multipurpose water projects. Can he reply to the question today?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I checked into the hon. member's question. The position is that negotiations with regard to agreements are proceeding. They have not been concluded yet with any province, but we have made it plain to the provinces at the same time that individual applications will be entertained. I am told that at least one has been approved to the point where it is awaiting my signature.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Yukon on a supplementary, and the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe on a supplementary to a previous question, after which the Chair will call orders of the day.

APPLICATION OF DREE LEGISLATION TO YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. He will recall that in the standing committee he informed me that he was considering the application of the DREE legislation to the two northern territories. Can he say now when this act will be translated into a truly national act with application to both the Yukon and the Northwest Territories?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the matter to which I was referring earlier in reply to the hon. member for Mackenzie had to do with prairie wells, but I suppose that is as good a peg as any on which to ask a question. I have had discussions with my colleague, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and also with a number of native associations with a view to expanding the base of our activities in the manner requested by the hon. member. I hope that something of substance will emerge.

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FISHERIES**LOSSES SUFFERED BY ATLANTIC AREA FISHERMEN FROM STORM—SUGGESTED CATCH INSURANCE PROGRAM**

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and is supplementary to the question asked by the hon. member for Central Nova. In view of the repeated storm damage during the fishing year, and in view of the fact that the federal government is not doing anything