

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta): Madam Speaker, is the Minister now prepared to admit the error of her Government's ways and give support to an initiative which will provide improved infrastructure and lower production costs for northern mining companies, in particular by opening the road to Skagway for ore trucks, by improving power subsidies to northern mining companies, and of course by scrapping the ill-considered plan to tax northern workers on the transportation and housing allowances which they receive from their employers?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is indulging in his usual rhetoric. I remind him that those programs which are in place are putting people back to work. If he would care to look at the Cassiar situation he would see that Section 38 is working very well and those miners are working today. With a little more co-operation from the other side we would see more people back to work.

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● (1430)

FINANCE

REQUEST FOR 1982-83 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. The Minister will be introducing, for first reading today, a Bill to borrow some \$5 billion. Would the Minister advise this House whether on Motions today he will be giving this House a full and complete financial statement for 1982-83 and for as far as he can see into the next fiscal year? Also, will he be tabling with this House full projections of his financial requirements?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Bill is to receive first reading today. It will be debated on second reading tomorrow. At eleven o'clock tomorrow I will be making a speech in this House, and I will be very happy to provide the information to the Hon. Member concerning our financial situation for 1982-1983.

Mr. Nielsen: What about 1983-1984?

PROVISION OF INFORMATION

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, is the Minister saying to this House that he is asking us to accept the borrowing authority bill for \$5 billion without fulfilling his promises made to this House on October 27, promises confirmed also in this House by his Minister of State for Finance on October 28, and promises confirmed to myself in the Question Period one week ago, that he would table full and complete financial information, indeed a budget, before he would ask for further borrowing authority?

Oral Questions

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I never said in my October 27 statement, or since, that there would be a budget before asking for additional financial funds. That was my hope obviously. But, as the Hon. Member knows, the Income Tax Act provisions resulting from the previous budget have not yet been passed by this House. This has delayed my plans regarding the introduction of a budget. In the meantime there will be a requirement for additional borrowing authority.

However, I indicated in my October 27 statement that I would be coming to the House before the end of the fiscal year for additional borrowing authority. This is what I am doing at the present time. As I indicated to the Hon. Member, we will have second reading on the Bill tomorrow, and I will be very happy to provide my hon. friend with the information that he needs to pass judgment on the additional borrowing authority.

PROPOSAL TO REINSTATE FARMERS' CREDITORS
ARRANGEMENT ACT

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Has he received proposals regarding legislation that would try to accommodate the difficult situations that have occurred between farmers and banks and other borrowing institutions? Has the Minister received proposals to revise or reinstitute the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, or amendments to the Bankruptcy Act? If so, what is his disposition toward them?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, there is a Bill before this House in the name of the Hon. Member for Lambton-Middlesex in which there is a particular proposal. The Hon. Member for Lambton-Middlesex has been pressing for consideration of this Bill. Both the Minister of Agriculture and myself have indicated that the principle of trying to do something is one to which we are attracted in the current circumstances.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: You have a principle of trying to do something. What about doing something?

Mr. Lalonde: But, as far as legislation by the Government is concerned, that is a matter that would be announced in due time if any such step is taken.

SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRI-BOND PROGRAM

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey): My supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance. He well knows that since the Liberal Government took power in February, 1980, over 900 farmers have faced bankruptcy and thousands of others are in serious difficulty. In the Minister's upcoming budget is he seriously considering including an agri-bond or other type provision that would provide some long-term low interest rate financing for agriculture so that farmers can plan their future?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, what the Hon. Member forgets to mention is that since we