

*Oral Questions*

important matter. The hon. member has made innuendoes that are not acceptable, beginning with a false quotation which I would like him to check and correct. What I said and repeat to the House, and it can be confirmed by my women colleagues in cabinet in particular, is that in the past five or six years the members of the special committee of council, which is the committee that must approve in order that such loss of status can be enforced, has not approved them while I was a member. I understand it is continuing to do the same. In fact 41 women have been reinstated in the recent past as far as their status is concerned. The hon. member should state the complete situation.

## REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF MINISTER'S SPEECH

**Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin):** Madam Speaker, I anticipated that the minister would probably say I had not given her the facts. I have a copy of the speech she gave on March 5. I quote from page 9:

Well, I will tell you that since 1976, when I was first appointed minister . . . no Indian woman has lost her status as an Indian.

That is her speech. The same thing was reported in the paper. The minister is telling me I do not have the facts. Last year she told me I did not have the facts when I told her there was tuberculosis in northern Quebec. There is still tuberculosis in northern Quebec. I would ask her to clarify the statement once more for the House.

[Translation]

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Madam Speaker, I must say that the hon. member's questions are among the most dangerous ones I have ever heard in the House, because of their distortion of the facts. Last year, the hon. member did not say there were cases of tuberculosis, because everyone was aware of this, and we are trying to deal with it. He said that people had died. He is not playing fair ball, and today, he is still distorting the facts. I am going to repeat what I said before. I could even send him a tape. I repeat, for his sake, that the special committee of council and the cabinet committee that has to approve the procedures to which he is referring and which are carried out in the department, did not approve them.

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[English]

## TRADE

## SALES OF LUMBER TO UNITED STATES

**Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Whereas employees in over three quarters of the lumber mills in the Atlantic provinces are out of work because of the loss of Canadian and American markets, and in view of the recent upturn in housing starts in the United States, what measures is the minister taking to promote sales of Canadian lumber in the United States and Canada? Specifically, has he

recommended a reduction in the federal sales tax on building materials as it relates to lumber, to the Minister of Finance?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Madam Speaker, I do not think it would be appropriate for me to comment here on the range of comments or advice I may give from time to time to the Minister of Finance or that he may give to me from time to time.

The hon. member raises an important point when he says there has been some upturn in housing in the United States. This is a factor that should lead to some improvement in the situation involving sawmills in his province and elsewhere in Canada. In the light of this upturn, our trade commissioners and our offices across the United States will continue and hopefully intensify their efforts to make sure that the good qualities of Canadian lumber are kept in mind by American home builders. I am sure this is the case not only with our efforts in the United States but in other important markets as well.

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## REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

## LOCATION OF INDUSTRIES IN ATLANTIC PROVINCES

**Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury):** Madam Speaker, I thank the minister for his answer. I suggest to the minister that the range and value of the federal instruments used to promote an economic catch-up have obviously not been equal to the task. I would urge him to explore some further measures along the lines I have suggested to the Minister of Finance.

The Department of Regional Economic Expansion is currently engaged in an expensive media advertising campaign to pat itself on the back for the past glories of DREE before it was dismantled. Instead of using the campaign for self-praise, will the minister use the campaign to encourage industries to locate in the Atlantic provinces, promote the purposes of his programs, and advise Canadian firms across Canada, not just in the Atlantic provinces, how they can obtain incentives and of the real benefits to locating in this most attractive part of Canada?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Madam Speaker, my hon. friend's question and the premises in it explain why this relatively limited information program is required. DREE has not been dismantled. It is very much in business providing its very worth-while programs to Atlantic Canada and similar regions across our country. Instead of being dismantled, it will eventually be integrated with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce to form a larger, even stronger and more active department of regional industrial expansion.

One of the objectives of this information program is to remind those who have made use of the department's service,