

*Oral Questions***REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION****EFFECT OF INCREASED BANK RATE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, it is one thing for the minister to make a fool of himself in this House, but to do so before his colleagues from the United States is something else again. I ask the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion if he has consulted the Minister of Finance and has he satisfied himself that this move of increasing interest rates will not seriously undermine regional development policies in this country, especially in the four Atlantic provinces?

**Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I can say to the hon. gentleman that right now we are not receiving that many applications, and this situation will not change very much. I can refer the hon. gentleman to a point when the interest rate was quite high, even higher than it is with the present increase. We have a substantial investment in his province of Nova Scotia—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Newfoundland.

**Mr. Lessard:**—and this will not have the impact of, nor will it be a major factor in, preventing investment in Canada.

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**NORTHERN AFFAIRS****AKAMINA-KISHINENA, B.C.—RESPONSE OF PROVINCIAL MINISTERS TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION**

**Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I would like to thank the minister for providing me with copies of correspondence to the provincial ministers of forestry and the environment of British Columbia dealing with the Akamina-Kishinena Valley. Has the minister received responses from the provincial authorities to his intervention?

**Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, I will have to check. I will do so this afternoon and report back to the hon. member.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS****AKAMINA-KISHINENA, B.C.—PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE**

**Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West):** My question is to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Minister of State for the Environment. I ask the hon. minister if he has had occasion to make representations, on behalf of the Canadian Wildlife Service, to provincial authorities in British Columbia with reference to the concern for certain wildlife elements in the Akamina-Kishinena Valley area?

[Mr. Chrétien.]

**Hon. Len Marchand (Minister of State (Environment)):** Mr. Speaker, I have looked into the matter. All the species involved in this particular area come under provincial jurisdiction. I have not yet made any representations, because whatever goes on there is dictated by provincial jurisdiction.

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**ENERGY****GULF OIL REPAYMENTS TO SHAREHOLDERS—PROPOSAL AECL TAKE SIMILAR ACTION**

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources: it relates to a very interesting decision by a federal appeals court in the United States, released Tuesday afternoon. Officers and former officers of Gulf Oil Corporation were required to pay back to their shareholders the sum of \$18.8 million illegally paid out by Gulf Oil. Coincidentally, some of that money may have been paid to one, Shaul Eisenberg, for a transaction in South Korea.

My question to the minister is this. Has the minister or the government given any consideration, as the shareholder on behalf of the people of this country in Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, to looking at the possibility of attempting to recover a similar amount paid out by the officers and former officers of that corporation for what has obviously been concluded by a committee of this House to be for corrupt or illegal purposes?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I know nothing about the allegations in the preamble of the hon. member's question. I am sure he realizes—I believe this was put before the committee of which he was the chairman—that the contract entered into by AECL and Mr. Eisenberg or his company is regarded as a legal contract.

**Mr. Lawrence:** Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of that. If the minister is correcting me, I am glad to have that correction. For instance, in respect of the Argentinian transaction there was no reference whatsoever to the \$2.5 million, or a total of \$5 million, U.S., that was paid out by AECL on behalf of the minister and on behalf of me to an unknown agent, for unknown purposes, using very suspicious means of payment. Is the minister now indicating to the House that that transaction was included in the contract between AECL and the Argentinian authorities? If so, this is the first time we have had that information provided to us.

**Mr. Gillespie:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member seems to be very confused. If he casts his mind back, he will realize that the arrangement made with Mr. Eisenberg and his companies was with respect to the Korean contract and not to the Argentinian one.