

Oral Questions

[Translation]

THE BUDGET—PROVISIONS RESPECTING MUNICIPALITIES
AND ACCUMULATION OF FUNDS BY INDIVIDUALS TO BUY
HOMES

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. It deals with the very important speech he made last night and is of interest to municipalities and persons of 18 or more. I should like to be very specific. Will the removal of the sales tax on building materials mentioned on page 22 of the speech which will apply to municipalities and water distribution systems also apply to municipal sewers? Secondly, will the fiscal advantages granted persons 18 or over through a registered home ownership savings plan apply not only to the purchase of homes but also to home construction?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I shall allow the minister to reply briefly, but may I remind the hon. member for Bellechasse that in a few minutes we will be discussing the budget, in addition to which those questions should not really be put before we reach orders for the day. But the question having been put, the minister may want to answer it briefly.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the answer can be found in the document I tabled last night. The answer to the second part of the question is yes. With regard to the first part of his question, I must refer the hon. member to the document I tabled last night. In any event, I shall be in touch with him in this regard.

[English]

LOSS IN REVENUE RESULTING FROM CORPORATE TAX CUT
AND FASTER WRITE-OFFS LAST YEAR

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance and has reference to the question put to him by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville relating to the estimated loss of revenues flowing from the cut in corporate taxes for manufacturers and processors and the fast write-offs. In view of the fact the Deputy Minister of Finance promised an answer on that this morning at the latest, am I to take it from the Minister of Finance's response to the hon. member that he is refusing to give that information?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am saying to the hon. gentleman that in order to calculate the net tax effect of the corporate tax incentives to manufacturers and processors one has to take the gross tax receipts and set off against them taxation from increased activity in the construction industry and in capital investment, and what that means in terms of greater productivity and greater taxation, and also net out the greater personal taxation from the new jobs that are provided by that increase.

Mr. Stanfield: How was it that the minister's officials were quite prepared to give us an estimate last year? In view of this, why is the minister going through all this elaborate cover-up which is creating suspicion in the minds of people that is exceedingly regrettable? I ask the minister, will he not do what his officials promised would

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

be done, give us this information, and prevent the suspicion developing that the minister is creating today?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I am relying on my authority as minister and reporting to a fellow member of the House, and I have told him of the difficulty in supplying that answer.

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PENITENTIARIES

ESCAPE OF TWO INMATES FROM MILLHAVEN—ALLEGED
DELAY IN NOTIFYING NAPANEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General and deals with permissiveness in our penal administration. Last week two convicts escaped from Millhaven Penitentiary, enjoyed a delightful day in the county town of Napanee in the luxury of splendid anonymity at the expense of the public, and are still at large because there was no communication from the prison to the police department of the town of Napanee. What reason can the Solicitor General give for the failure of his department for 14 hours to notify the Napanee police department of the escape of these men and of their description?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I will have to get the information on that question. I was expecting it a few days ago. I had the information here then but I do not have it today.

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AGRICULTURE

INCREASE IN FERTILIZER AND BALER TWINE PRICES—
INVESTIGATION OF JUSTIFICATION

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture with regard to the recent increases in fertilizer prices amounting to 30 per cent about which the minister has not satisfied me, and also with regard to other products involved in the production of agricultural products such as baler twine which has increased in price by at least 300 per cent. Has the minister had any inquiries conducted to see whether these increases are justified?

● (1440)

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows we have been checking on these prices. We know that the supply of baler twine is increasing. If there is a so-called shortage, this is one way in which unjustified price increases can be overcome. A cargo of baler twine was recently unloaded at Saint John, New Brunswick, and another is being unloaded at Toronto. If the supply becomes greater, that will have a controlling effect on prices. We know the increase will not be 300 per cent as the hon. member has suggested. According to our survey, fertilizer prices in western Canada have gone up by approximately 23 per cent. The big problem we are now facing is that some small dealers and farmers are