

• (1500)

**Hon. Douglas Young (Minister of Transport, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, surely the hon. member is aware of the efforts made by the government of Canada to ensure the establishment of a very important industry in her own riding.

It always comes as a surprise to hear opposition members ask questions on sectors in which Quebec is undoubtedly the leader among all Canadian provinces. I thought the hon. member would have been pleased by such a success in her own riding.

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[English]

### INDIAN AFFAIRS

**Miss Deborah Grey (Beaver River, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, on Monday the membership of the Frog Lake reserve in Alberta ousted its chief and paid him \$25,000 to leave. It is frustrated that the Indian Act does not empower individual band members.

When will the minister introduce a mandate for other government departments such as Revenue Canada and the auditor general to ensure accountability of federal funds so that members of bands will feel protected, and not just their chiefs?

**Hon. Ron Irwin (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the Frog Lake band situation is not as simple as that, as the member should know since she lives approximate to it, although very seldom visits it.

On Frog Lake there is an issue between those who want to have housing and those who want to have a band office to the extent that the chief's health—he is a good chief—has deteriorated significantly and he wants to leave.

The hon. member would serve her constituents in a budding band in a more fruitful manner if she would go there and help that chief because he is in a very difficult situation and in ill health.

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### THE ECONOMY

**Hon. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

The government continues to indicate that social and health programs are the major cause of debt and deficit but as the minister knows and has said in the House, it is tax loopholes and the high interest rate policy.

Today's auditor general report reaffirms that Canada's level of foreign indebtedness is the highest among major industrial

### Business of the House

nations and that this foreign indebtedness is threatened by control of monetary policy.

I ask the minister if he would consider two measures to start taking control of our monetary policy. One is whether he would reinstate reserve requirements for the chartered banks with the Bank of Canada which would allow the bank to assume more of Canadian debt, and whether he would reduce the 20 per cent foreign investment option with RRSPs which would encourage Canadians to invest in Canada.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has properly identified a problem the government in its deficit reduction program has identified and is seeking to address, the very high level of foreign indebtedness which exists primarily in the private sector and in a number of provincial government borrowings.

I do not believe, however, the solutions brought forth by the member really suit. We must increase the percentage of Canada's savings.

As far as the reserve requirements of the banks, if we are to create jobs we want to make sure our banks are competitive with other banks.

As far as the 20 per cent rule, we have looked at it. As members know, there have been recommendations that the 20 per cent rule be increased. Those are not recommendations I would be inclined to accede to at this time.

**The Speaker:** This brings to a close question period. I have the usual question for Thursday. I will take that first and then go to a point of order.

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[Translation]

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Michel Gauthier (Roberval, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the leader of the government in the House. I want to ask him if the legislative agenda of the upcoming weeks will be as light as the one of the last few weeks.

[English]

**Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I am surprised the opposition House leader does not consider major measures with respect to public safety like witness protection and updating our parole system and improving the system of regulation of transport as serious and important.