

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): I have been informed by the department that the hon. member can be assured that the grassland incentive program will definitely continue. To date, although the response has been excellent, there is still provision in the program for another two million acres of grassland. A number of improvements have been made in the program and a copy of a press release detailing these improvements will be in the hands of hon. members this afternoon.

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DRUGS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT POSITION RESPECTING MARIJUANA

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the great and anxious interest in the Le Dain Commission report on marijuana, which the minister says is just about ready for release, may I ask the minister to tell the House whether the government intends to make its position clear at this time?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): If the hon. member is asking me whether the government will make its position clear concerning a report it has not yet received, I do not think that makes too much sense. If he is asking whether we shall analyse the report once we see it, the answer is yes.

Mr. Rynard: It is important to realize that it is not knowing where the government stands on anything which is disturbing people.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

POSSIBLE WEAKENING OF OPERATION OF ACT BECAUSE OF ACCELERATION OF DEPRECIATION ON MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT—PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH FINANCE MINISTER

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion whether there was consultation with the Minister of Finance regarding the introduction of the new accelerated depreciation rate on equipment and machinery, which might have the effect of seriously weakening the position of the Regional Development Incentives Act, especially in areas such as the Atlantic provinces.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Would the hon. member be good enough to repeat the first part of the question?

Mr. McGrath: Yes. I wanted to ask the minister whether he had consulted with the Minister of Finance with regard to the provision in the budget with respect to the accelerated write-off of equipment and machinery costs, a

Inquiries of the Ministry

provision which could weaken the effect of the grants made under the act?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I was at the cabinet meeting when this matter was discussed.

Mr. McGrath: What steps is the minister prepared to take to make sure that this does not happen?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I think the premise is wrong, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance related to the question asked by my hon. friend from St. John's East. Will the minister give consideration to the position in which manufacturing and other companies find themselves? Having received grants they are now required to write off that portion of the grant applicable to production machinery before they can establish their cost allowances. Would the minister give consideration to this point? In terms of the budget brought down the other night there would appear to be some lessening of the power of DREE to attract industry to designated areas.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): I do not accept the premise, but I will certainly consider the point the hon. member has brought up. In general terms, I would hope that this change announced in the budget would make the Atlantic provinces more competitive, not only within this country but throughout the world.

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PUBLIC WORKS

CHURCHILL REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM—INCLUSION OF INCINERATOR TO DISCOURAGE INFLUX OF POLAR BEARS

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. It relates to the redevelopment program being carried out jointly at Churchill, Manitoba, by the province and the federal government. Can the minister say whether any final decision has been reached concerning the inclusion in the program of an incinerator so that the influx of polar bears might be controlled or discouraged?

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure that this question ought to be answered at this time, rather than placed on the order paper. I have the impression it is the kind of question which might well be considered at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Simpson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I thought the minister was preparing to rise. I was merely asking whether a final decision had been taken.

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): No, Mr. Speaker, I was not preparing to rise. I shall have to look into this matter and give the information to the hon. member later.