

AGRICULTURE

HOLSTEIN CATTLE RESEARCH—USE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TAX CREDIT

Mr. William C. Winegard (Guelph): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Dreamstreet Holsteins to negotiate with Holstein Canada, the University of Guelph and others to develop a new and sound research proposal in order that the majority of the funds provided under the scientific research tax credit scheme can be used for research of benefit to Canada.

The current proposal does not have the support of the agricultural community and will not have that support until Dreamstreet decides to turn the project into a major comprehensive research effort. In the meantime Revenue Canada should use every means at its disposal to ensure that only research approved by the scientific community is undertaken with taxpayers' dollars.

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GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

MARLIN TRAVEL CONTRACT AWARD

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the awarding of a \$130 million contract to Marlin Travel Ltd. for government travel will save very little money in the long run. The main effect of the move will be the loss of 90 jobs in Air Canada and CP Air. Some people may be hired by Marlin Travel but most will be out looking for jobs. Those who do find jobs with Marlin Travel will do so at much lower salaries and much reduced benefits, such as medical, dental and pension plans.

Can this kind of reduction in work conditions be considered a saving, Mr. Speaker?

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THE ECONOMY

INTEREST RATE LEVELS

Mr. Jack Scowen (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, Bank of Canada interest rates have dropped 3.75 percentage points since the Government took office in September, 1984. The Bank of Canada rate now stands at 8.72 per cent while most banks are charging 10.75 per cent to preferred borrowers. There is a 4.5 point spread between top savings accounts and the cost to preferred corporate customers. The spread is much greater for operating and consumer loans.

One of the high costs to our agriculture communities is interest rates. For the good of the country we must get agriculture loans to below 6 per cent.

Oral Questions

IMMIGRATION

ISSUANCE OF MINISTERIAL PERMITS

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, while the Government is dragging its feet on the backlog of over 21,000 refugees, and while many Canadians are having a difficult time in successfully sponsoring relatives, we have a Minister of Immigration (Miss MacDonald) who is prepared to issue ministerial permits to a former spy for the Samosa regime in Nicaragua and two former members of the Chilean secret police. In both cases there are serious allegations of disappearances, torture, and other human rights violations to which these individuals have admitted.

I find it shocking and indefensible that such characters should now be seeking sanctuary in Canada with the blessing of this Conservative Government. What are the Minister's priorities? Where is the fairness in the system?

The Minister should facilitate the entry of decent individuals who are prepared to work and to contribute to Canada, rather than offering a haven to undesirables. Her appalling decisions should be reversed immediately.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF CHAIRMAN OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURE—HOUSE OF COMMONS, WESTMINSTER

Mr. Speaker: May I advise Members of the presence in our Gallery today of Sir Peter Emery, Chairman of the Select Committee on Procedure, from the House of Commons in Westminster, along with members of his committee.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION

INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER OF REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION WAS FORCED TO RESIGN

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the front benches aren't very crowded today.

In any case, I would like to put a question to the Deputy Prime Minister regarding the statement made this morning by the ex-Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. For two weeks now, there has been a smell of corruption in the air in this country. Why did it take two weeks to obtain the Minister's resignation, when a Prime Minister who is really concerned about the ethics of the matter would have acted from day one? My question is as follows: Did the Prime