

Oral Questions

months, as the hon. gentleman knows, rates for conventional mortgages have been coming down.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**POSSIBLE DELAY BY UNITED STATES IN
IMPLEMENTATION OF GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY
AGREEMENT—CANADIAN POSITION**

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the stated concern of some United States Congressmen that the United States will not issue the necessary regulations controlling sewage from U.S. vessels on the Great Lakes by the required date of April 15, can the minister assure the House that Canadian regulations required by the Great Lakes water quality agreement are ready to be issued by April 15?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would prefer to take that question as notice and give a more complete answer tomorrow. The information I have now would not justify me in giving the kind of answer that I think the hon. member would like.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

**CAMP VERNON—ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF TWO CHILDREN
FROM EXPLOSIVE DEVICE—ACTION TO PREVENT
SIMILAR DISASTER**

Mr. Douglas Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Is the minister aware of the tragic incident yesterday which caused the deaths of two Vernon, British Columbia, children, killed when a mortar shell, picked up on a former munitions training range at Camp Vernon, exploded?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of this tragic accident. It is being investigated. I do not believe it is yet known what the explosive device was that caused the accident, but the RCMP are investigating and we are co-operating fully.

Mr. Stewart (Okanagan-Kootenay): Will the minister indicate whether or not he is prepared to issue a directive that this second world war training range be combed and recombined in order to prevent similar disasters?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, this area has been examined by military engineers over the years, dating back as far as 1963. If there is new evidence following the investigation that warrants a further examination, then I would authorize it.

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

AGRICULTURE

POSSIBLE PRODUCTION OF PROTEIN FROM WHEY

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In light of recent reports that the processing of protein may soon become a leading industry in Canada, has the minister considered the production of protein from whey, which is available at the rate of a quarter of a billion pounds annually in my area and could produce approximately 15 million pounds of pure protein annually?

• (1520)

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I can tell the hon. member that the research department of the Department of Agriculture has probably one of the most expanded research programs of any group of researchers in the world studying the use of this product so it can be economically used. We are aware of this and are considering how it can be done in economic fashion for the benefit of all producers that have to use this protein.

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[Translation]

CONSUMPTION AFFAIRS

MEASURES TO PROTECT BUYERS OF HEARING AIDS

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Can he tell the House when he will announce measures to protect buyers of hearing aids, old people in particular, who sometimes are shamefully exploited by unscrupulous buyers?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am taking this question as notice.

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[English]

FINANCE

**ALLEGED REFUSAL OF CHARTERED BANKS TO MAKE
SMALL BUSINESS LOANS—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Is the minister aware that some Canadian chartered banks are refusing loans under the Small Businesses Loans Act and, if so, what action is open to him under the act?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should like to have specific instances in order to look into the matter.