

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PROVISION OF SHORT-RANGE ECONOMIC FORECASTING ORGANIZATION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance which I have asked him very earnestly previously. When may we expect the minister to act on the recommendation which has been made for several years by the Economic Council of Canada that a short-range economic forecasting unit should be provided for Canada? I am sure there is no need for me to emphasize the importance of establishing such an organization.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend is referring to an organization outside the government. We have indicated that we would be willing to give limited support to the establishment of such an organization outside the government. We have indicated that we would be willing to give limited support to the establishment of such an organization but that basically it should be supported by industry in this country.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

ATLANTIC PROVINCES—DECISION ON RECOMMENDED REGIONAL TARIFF CHANGES

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): My question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has the government made a decision yet on the recommendations of the Atlantic Development Council, especially with regard to regional tariff changes and particularly in view of the failure of the regional development policy to operate and fulfil its goal within the present framework of monetary and fiscal policies?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): No, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, perhaps we can now hear from the Minister of Finance who was rising simultaneously with his colleague.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

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AGRICULTURE

INTERPROVINCIAL MARKETING—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Justice. In his

[Mr. Speaker.]

answer a few minutes ago in regard to agricultural products did he indicate that the settled policy of the government is to depend on negotiations between the provinces on trade policy rather than to establish the clear jurisdiction in this area either of the provinces or the federal government?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Mackenzie.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN—APPLICATION FOR GRANT TO CONSTRUCT PULP MILL

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Now that our dear friend has departed from the cabinet—I am speaking about the hon. member for Duvernay—is Premier Thatcher any closer to getting his grant for a pulp mill so he can call an election in June and the Prime Minister can call a by-election in Assiniboia?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Nickel Belt.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Surely the hon. member is not suggesting to the Chair that the question is in order. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Nickel Belt.

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member for Mackenzie would like an opportunity of rephrasing his question.

Mr. Korchinski: May I ask the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion whether we can expect a decision within the next week on whether Saskatchewan will be given a grant for the pulp mill so that the premier may call an election?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows he has already had two chances to ask his question.

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member for Mackenzie, who has had two strikes at the same question, might be allowed a third attempt provided it is the same question.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, I hope it will not be strike three. I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. May I ask him whether the calling of a by-election in Assiniboia is contingent upon a general election in the province of Saskatchewan?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is out!