

bid by the Calgary Olympics Committee. I might add that it is an excellent committee which has been doing the work of seeking to have the games awarded to Canada for 1988.

We have given an official indication to the Olympics Committee that we endorse Calgary's bid. On Monday, in Calgary, I will be indicating a contribution by my department toward the cost of the bid, which is, of course, a very expensive undertaking. We have approved in principle, if the bid is successful, assistance in the form of revenue-producing stamp and coin programs, which we think will be helpful. We are very supportive of the efforts of the Calgary Olympics Committee to convince the Interprovincial Lottery Commission, which now has control of the lotteries of this country, to allow Calgary substantial revenue from those provincial lotteries, or to establish a special lottery to make the financing of that undertaking possible.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CANADA SAVINGS BONDS

REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN INTEREST RATE

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. The minister will know that today the bank rate indicates continuing blind adherence by this government to its high interest rate policy. In light of that, the minister indicated a week ago that he would be fair to Canada Savings Bonds holders. The minister will know that the rate is only 11½ per cent, while banks, trust companies and other financial institutions are paying higher rates. Will the minister now be fair to Canada Savings Bonds holders and increase the rate to 12½ per cent?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, as I have mentioned to the hon. member on a number of previous occasions, I am obviously monitoring the rate of Canada Savings Bonds. In that regard, on one occasion late last year the rate was adjusted.

Despite the comments which he has made today the Canada Savings Bond is still a very attractive instrument. I have not yet reached any decision to alter the rate at the present time.

Mr. Blenkarn: Madam Speaker, the minister will know that \$261 million worth of Canada Savings Bonds were redeemed last week. He will also know that probably more will be redeemed this week, as the high interest rate policy of the government carries on. It costs the government a great deal of money to place those bonds, at least 1 per cent. Will the minister, in the interest of running a reasonable economic system in Canada, do something to retard the redemption of these bonds? Will he at least be fair to the people? Will he pay the people the kinds of rates which he is prepared to pay to the big banks and the bond market generally for money which he borrows?

Oral Questions

Mr. MacEachen: Madam Speaker, of course we intend to be fair to those who have purchased bonds. The Canada Savings Bond has certain features which no other instrument has. For that reason, in addition to the interest rate, these other features, which are attractive to subscribers, must be kept in mind. I will certainly keep in mind the question of fairness so that the fair thing will be done at the appropriate time.

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HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

USE OF PESTICIDES—POSSIBLE HEALTH RISKS

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. On June 23, 1980, the minister assured Canadians that there was no evidence that pesticides tested in the U.S. by Industrial Biotest Laboratories "represent a health hazard to users or as residues in food." Yet on January 7, 1981, the Regina *Leader-Post* revealed that secret Canadian government memos obtained in the United States indict IBT for fraudulent captan safety studies. The memo reveals that as early as 1978—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member ask his question, please?

● (1440)

Mr. de Jong: Is the minister still prepared, in light of the recent disclosures about the health hazards of captan, to stand behind her statement of June 23, 1980, when she claimed that there is no evidence that any of these pesticides represent a health hazard?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, I can confirm that on January 7, I believe, the CP wire service carried a story on the possible health risks associated with captan. Generally speaking, the information contained in that story was correct and corresponds with what I said in the House previously. Replacement studies were initiated by the registrants some time ago because tests on captan which were carried out by Industrial Biotest Laboratories in the United States were invalid. The results of a critical cancer study are expected to be available some time this month.

Mr. de Jong: I have a supplementary, Madam Speaker. The secret Canadian government memos also revealed that five pages of the test reports were altered by IBT after Chevron Chemical Company, a major manufacturer of captan, expressed concern about the high number of mutations found in animals exposed to the chemical. Yet the Canadian government has asked Chevron to carry out new testing on captan. Can the government assure the Canadian people that falsification of testing will not occur again?

Miss Bégin: Madam Speaker, a Canadian ministry is not and cannot be responsible for invalid tests performed by an American laboratory. The objective of any monitoring of tests