

Oral Questions

in touch with these people all the time. We gave some of these people reduced interest rates as low as 9 per cent and 10 per cent. These subsidized interest rates cost us, I believe, \$36 million over a period of two years. Some of these people have not made a payment in two years.

What is the Hon. Member suggesting we do? These people are involved in production entities that are not giving a proper return. These production entities have not allowed them to make payments even with the reduced interest rates. In some instances, Mr. Speaker, if we gave them free money they would not be able to make ends meet under the production entities in which they are involved. That is only in some instances, not in all. I have made suggestions to the Minister of Finance. We are concerned about these people.

The letters that I received from Macgregor, Manitoba, and some other areas suggest that the Farm Credit Corporation take ownership, lease the land back to the farmers and let them stay on the land for three years, with the right to buy it back if it becomes economically viable. His constituents are suggesting that, Mr. Speaker. If the Hon. Member has any different views from his constituents, let him tell me them.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**SRI LANKA—PLIGHT OF TAMIL POPULATION**

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for International Trade, if he will return to his seat. Tamil speaking Canadians are most concerned about what has happened today and yesterday in Sri Lanka. What can the Minister tell the House about that situation? What, if anything, does he feel the Government of Canada can do to stabilize the situation in Sri Lanka?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I am unable to report to the Hon. Member on the happenings in Sri Lanka yesterday and today, to which he refers. There has been an ongoing difficult situation in relation to the Tamil population with regard to certain isolated, and some not so isolated, incidents of violence. We have excellent representation in Colombo. Canadian interests are well taken care of. We are confident that the Government of Sri Lanka is doing all it can to deal with the situation.

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GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING**SALARY OF CABINET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It is with regard to the advertising management group, the Cabinet Committee on Communications. Mr. P. T. Zarry, the Chairman, has been allotted \$14 million to advertise 50 Government programs which the public does not know exist. Mr. Zarry is receiving a

salary of \$2,000 per day, plus expenses. Can the Prime Minister justify an exorbitant salary like that?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of this. If the Hon. Member had sent me notice, I might have inquired. I will be happy to take notice of the question.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member may have a supplementary question. However, if the Hon. Member is asking for specific details, a question on the Order Paper is usual.

REPORTING AUTHORITY

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Prime Minister can take this as notice as well. Can he also explain why Mr. Zarry reports on his duties to Senator Keith Davey in the other place?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of that also.

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POOLS**FUNDING FOR SPORTS POOL CORPORATION**

Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport). What authority did the Minister have to borrow \$12.9 million from the Crown corporation, Loto Canada, to start up his sports lottery?

[Translation]

Hon. Jacques Olivier (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, as far as I know, we have not borrowed money from Loto Canada. Certainly not. We are continuing discussions in accordance with our agreement, which is to return to the Consolidated Fund the sums of money that remain in the Loto Canada account.

[English]

POSSIBLE USE OF POST OFFICES AS LOCATIONS FOR SPORTS POOL TERMINALS

Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton North): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister responsible for the Post Office, if he would come into the House. Are you allowing—

Mr. Speaker: Please address the Chair.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, through you, to the Minister responsible for the Post Office, is he going to allow 8,300 of his postal terminals to be betting houses for the new sports pool?

Some Hon. Members: Shame!