

AGRICULTURE

CANADIAN APPLE INDUSTRY—HELP PROMISED BY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Marcel Ostiguy (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture or to his Parliamentary Secretary. On July 7 of this year, the Department of Agriculture announced a grant of \$26.5 million for Canadian applegrowers in four provinces that suffered severe frost in 1981. Could the Parliamentary Secretary inform the House whether the study has now been completed and when the applegrowers can expect to receive the Government aid they have been promised since July 7 of this year?

Mr. Marcel Dionne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as we all know, in 1981-1982, Canadian applegrowers suffered severe losses due to frost. We also know that the provincial Ministers refused to declare designated areas, and the federal Government had to intervene alone in order to help the Canadian apple industry.

To answer my hon. colleague's question, I can assure him that 40 per cent of the payments will be made before Christmas, and the rest of these payments, which are being made to finance replanting of Canadian orchards, will be made after the holidays, in February or March.

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[English]

FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW AGENCY

DECISION AFFECTING HALIFAX CONVENTION SERVICE FIRMS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It concerns jobs. It also concerns a November 21 announcement made by FIRA which permitted an American trade convention service, called Concept Convention Services of Boston, to establish in Halifax in the new trade centre which will open there shortly. What consultation process did FIRA use to reach that decision? In particular, was any study done to determine the effect of this American company on local firms that are already doing the same kind of business in the Halifax area?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, on such a detailed question as that I would have expected the Hon. Member to give me advance notice. I would have obtained the information, but I will check and get back to him.

REASONS FOR DECISION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have a copy of a telegram sent to the Minister on November 24 by the president of one of the local firms which provides the

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same kind of service in the convention centre. He says that his company and his competitors were not even consulted. Why would a foreign firm from Boston be allowed into the Halifax area when there are Canadian firms which provide the same services in the same area of the country? Why bring in a foreign firm that will displace Canadian companies and displace Canadians from the jobs they now have?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, there are thousands of FIRA cases that we handle in the course of a year. I cannot remember the specific details of all of them. Obviously, it would not have been approved if there had not been some significant net benefit for Canada. I will check the allegations of the Hon. Member and get back to him.

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CANADIAN COAST GUARD

PURCHASE OF NAVIGATIONAL AIDS FROM SWEDEN

Hon. John Wise (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Supply and Services, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. My question is supplementary to the one put by my friend from Yorkton-Melville. It deals with jobs. We heard an exchange earlier in the House about shutting down towns. There is a prime example from the last four years of a government effectively shutting down a country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Will the Hon. Member get to his question?

Mr. Wise: Mr. Speaker, the Minister has had in his possession a telex from a manufacturing company in Vancouver, B.C., Prime Mover Control, Inc., in which it received official information from the Coast Guard, the Department of Transport, the Department of Supply and Services, as well as the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, that the Coast Guard is insisting on the fact that navigational aids be purchased from a Swedish firm. This is a second example—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. This is hardly supplementary to the question asked by the Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville. If the Hon. Member wants to ask a question of the Minister, he will be recognized for that, but he was recognized for a supplementary. Will he please make his question short?

Mr. Wise: Mr. Speaker, this is the second example in a three-week period where this Government is officially encouraging economic activity to go beyond Canada. What does this do in the interest of productivity and in the interest of employment and economic activity?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, if I heard the Hon. Member properly, he indicated that the Coast Guard was issuing orders for purchases to be made for navigational aids. I consider his comments to be equally