

federal welfare payments? Is he not aware of that and that therefore the deficit is not a real reason to refuse the program?

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the Informetrica study. It is being reviewed by Departments of Government, and we hope to be able to give our response to it shortly.

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## REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

### DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. It is only two months into the fiscal year and I have been informed that DRIE is in a serious cash crunch situation. I have been informed by some very reliable sources that DRIE is unable to meet all its program commitments for this year out of its \$909 million budget for projects which have already been negotiated in the past.

Could the Minister confirm that, according to my sources, his Department is now unable to meet some \$75 million to \$100 million in financial commitments under DRIE's various programs?

Could he also tell us whether or not he has had a chance to meet with the President of the Treasury Board to discuss this very serious problem?

[Translation]

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to enlighten my hon. friend. I have also been advised that, because of the accounting methods now used by the Government, there might be some overspending in the Budget for the fiscal year 1986-87. This overspending could also affect the current fiscal year, with the requirements of the regions growing constantly. But my hon. colleague is certainly well aware that under Section 25 of the Financial Administration Act, the Department cannot commit itself to spending more than the amounts allocated.

We have asked for a report on this matter. As soon as we receive it, we shall respond accordingly. But I want my hon. friend to know that the Government does not intend to overlook its commitments to regional development, and I invite him to acquaint himself with the announcements that will be made within the next few days, especially in the Atlantic region.

### CRITERIA USED BY DEPARTMENT

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. I thank the Minister for responding and confirming the problems faced by the Department. In view of those difficulties, the Department will have to try and renegotiate those agreements, especially for major projects. In

### Oral Questions

view of that indication, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell us now what criteria will be used to identify projects whose funding will be postponed until next year?

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to reassure the Hon. Member. That situation is quite temporary in the first place and that will be solved over the next few days or at the latest the next few weeks. I would like to tell him also that we are currently reviewing not only programs but also the level of funding for those programs, and we will be in a position as I said to address those temporary problems. Again, I would like to assure him of our total commitment to and special concern for matters of development and regional disparities. Once more, the Hon. Member will be able to see what effort and priority the Government is giving the matter.

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• (1440)

[English]

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### U.S.S.R.—TREATMENT OF REFUSENIKS

**Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. When I was in the Soviet Union last month, Alexei Gloukhov, Director of the Department of Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs, basically confirmed that the U.S.S.R. is treating refuseniks as hostages when he said that "as disarmament and peace negotiations go, so go human rights".

We were shocked at such an admission and told him that Canada's position is just the opposite. How can we trust the Soviets regarding peace initiatives if we cannot trust them to live up to their human rights obligations?

Is *glasnost* a reality or a myth? How can the Canadian Government bring increased pressure on the Soviet Union to stop treating refuseniks as hostages and poker chips in its world-wide negotiations?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, that is the question which no one can answer with certainty. There have certainly been developments in the Soviet Union that indicate some openness toward change. There has been a welcome attitude toward allowing more refuseniks to leave the country and allowing also a greater degree of family reunification. How extensive that will be remains to be seen.

Certainly the consistency of the Soviet Union in being prepared to allow people who want to leave that country to come to freedom will be a factor which all other nations will have to judge when we try to make some assessment of the sincerity of the Soviet Union in its other activities, including its willingness to adhere to arms control and other agreements.