

Oral Questions

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Department of External Affairs is consulting with the Department of Justice on this question.

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MANPOWER**OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—SUGGESTED INCREASE IN FUNDS TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT IN ATLANTIC REGION**

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that the increasing unemployment rate is particularly affecting people in the age bracket 15 to 25, and in view of the high rate of unemployment in the Atlantic region, I wonder if the minister is considering, with the increasing number of applications of the Opportunities for Youth program, increasing the funds available to that program in order to be able to stop the steady increase of unemployment for those particular individuals?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we are always giving ongoing consideration but no such decision has been made, although the matter is under review at the moment.

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AGRICULTURE**BEEF CATTLE—SUGGESTED DEFERRAL OF INTEREST PAYMENTS ON LOANS TO AID PRODUCERS**

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Agriculture. A lot of young farmers have been encouraged to enter the cattle industry as a result of the government's policy of making loans available under programs such as the Farm Credit Corporation and the Farm Improvement Loans. There is now a slump in the cattle industry, however, as a result of the government's inactivity. Is the government now prepared to defer interest payments or reorganize the Farm Credit Corporation so that as much of the industry as is possible can be salvaged?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I do not deny that the government did lend some money to help young farmers enter the cattle industry, but I think the hon. member should remember that the provinces did much more to encourage this than the federal government. Any reasonable or responsible request for deferral by any farmer who finds himself in difficulty, will be dealt with sympathetically by the Farm Credit Corporation.

Mr. Korchinski: A supplementary question. Inasmuch as some of the programs have been "stop loss" rather than "make profit", has the government given any consideration to picking up the tab for interest on Farm Improvement Loans?

[Mr. Alexander.]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I do not think we have given any concentrated consideration to this but I would be only too willing to discuss it with my colleague who has jurisdiction over the Farm Improvement Loan program, the Minister of Finance.

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH PROVINCES ON CANADIAN EGG MARKETING AGENCY

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture who on Monday night indicated some willingness to table the telegrams sent to him concerning the operations of CEMA by the provincial ministers of agriculture. There are indications that CEMA is in very bad financial trouble and is not getting the necessary co-operation from the provinces. In view of the urgency of the matter, I wonder whether the minister would table the correspondence so that either the Standing Committee on Agriculture or the House could see exactly what the situation is in regard to the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, during the course of debate the other night I reported to the House that most of the provinces had committed themselves to paying the money. Some of them have paid it. I would say that CEMA is in a better financial position than it has ever been. We are following the proper course, asking permission from the senders of the telegrams, the provincial ministers, to table the telegrams in this House. I hope to have that authority shortly.

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AIR CANADA**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON DIFFICULTIES IN FINANCIAL BRANCH IN WINNIPEG**

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Last Friday the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre asked the Minister of Labour if mediation services would be assisting in the serious labour problems of the Air Canada financial branch in Winnipeg. The minister announced that he would look into the matter and report early this week. I wonder if the minister can now report.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I think that particular altercation took place in December and was resolved, although the basic problem has not been resolved. I understand Air Canada indicated they are prepared to open up the agreement and discuss classifications. We are awaiting a reply from the union. This was my information as of a day or two ago, but I will check again.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.