

Oral Questions

document, does in fact constitute the government's list of priorities as of today?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, in respect of the last part of the question I would answer it first by saying I do not comment on cabinet documents whether they are reputed to have been leaked or not. On the question as to what our priorities are, Mr. Speaker, they vary from time to time, and I hope that the country and the opposition know what they are from time to time. Today our priorities—

An hon. Member: Do you know?

Mr. Trudeau: Today our priorities—

An hon. Member: What are they? Let's hear about them.

Mr. Trudeau: I will be glad to answer any question of the hon. Leader of the Opposition as to what our priorities are at a particular point in time from the point of view of action or from the point of view of study.

An hon. Member: When is the next election?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Peace River on a supplementary question and then the hon. member for Nickel Belt. If there are further supplementary questions on this subject they can be asked after we have completed the first round of questions.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION—POSITION OF
GOVERNMENT

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance if it is now the opinion of the government that it has found itself incapable of dealing with inflation and the unacceptable rate of unemployment and is therefore turning to deal with the consequences that flow from such failures?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): No, Sir.

* * *

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

NORTHERN ONTARIO—POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF
CROWN CORPORATION

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the highest priority which the cabinet places on regional development, and in view of the admission in the confidential DREE document entitled "Ontario Regional Report" that the incentive program is not sufficient in itself to alter substantially the position of northern Ontario in the Canadian economy as a whole, will the minister tell the House whether he intends to establish a Crown corporation located in northern Ontario in which the people of northern Ontario would have a say?

[Mr. Stanfield.]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the preamble to the hon. member's question, I would respond in precisely the same way as did the Prime Minister. I do not propose to comment on alleged leaked documents, if you like. In terms of the substance of the question, we have in every part of Canada, in other provinces, created either Crown corporations or federal-provincial corporations. This is a mechanism which we will be quite prepared to discuss either with the province of Ontario or with other groups within the province of Ontario.

NORTHERN ONTARIO—ESTABLISHMENT OF DESIGNATED
AREAS—DISCUSSION WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, since the document in question further states that the problems of northern Ontario are related to the lack of adequate housing, inadequate sewage facilities and a lack of fully-serviced industrial land, will the minister tell the House whether he intends to make a statement on the designation of several special areas in northern Ontario for the purpose of infrastructure?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, all of the matters to which the hon. member has referred will be discussed with the government of Ontario within the next ten days. I believe they are scheduled for the forthcoming DREE discussions I will be having in the early part of June. Certainly, these matters will be discussed in detail at that time.

Mr. Rodriguez: I have a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again a number of members are seeking to ask supplementary questions. I have been trying to finish the first round of questioning. The hon. member for Assiniboia can ask one supplementary question, after which the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Compton.

NORTHERN ONTARIO AND WESTERN CANADA—REQUEST
FOR CONSIDERATION OF TRANSPORTATION COSTS AS
FACTOR IN ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that areas in northern Ontario and in western Canada face a most difficult situation because of the freight rate structure, can this minister, who has a long record of experience with transportation, inform the House what precise action is being taken in these areas to meet this all-important question of revising the freight rate structure?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in so far as my own responsibilities are concerned, transportation is one of the key elements I have been discussing, in association with my colleague, the Minister of Transport, with the provinces. I did have discussions in Edmonton yesterday with the government of Alberta and have been doing so at all the federal-provincial discussions that have been going on. In addition, of course, we have met with the premiers of