

Oral Questions

WELFARE

LIVING CONDITIONS OF SENIOR CITIZENS AT MAISON DE REPOS—DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC MINISTER AS TO POSSIBLE ACTION

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of reports on television and in the press of the intolerable conditions under which a number of incapacitated older people are living at the Maison de Repos in Laval, and in view of the minister's concern over the welfare of these people since they are old age pension recipients, may I ask the minister if he is discussing this matter with his counterpart in the province of Quebec in the hope that this and other such situations might be cleared up?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will meet my colleagues from Quebec next weekend and I shall take that opportunity to let him know about the view expressed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

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[English]

FLOODS

DAMAGE ON GREAT LAKES—ALLEGED DELAY IN PROVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE—REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES ON REGULATIONS

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of the Environment. Would he indicate what new proposals he has initiated with his counterparts in the provincial governments to cut through what appears to be departmental and jurisdictional red tape that has prevented allocated funds from reaching the local reconstruction level almost four months and two additional disasters since the first chaotic storm and high water damage on the Great Lakes?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I will make inquiries. I am not quite sure what program the hon. member has in mind.

Mr. Danforth: When the minister is making his inquiries, will he also initiate with his provincial counterparts a review of the present regulations to seek a means of providing financial aid, at least to some degree, to home owners along the shores and dikes who apparently do not qualify under the present provisions?

Mr. Davis: The provisions are laid down by the province. The province deals directly with the property owners and the federal government backs up the province in this respect.

• (1510)

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, will the minister attempt to ensure that whatever joint funds are agreed upon will be evenly distributed so that all residents of areas adjacent to Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario who have suffered damage, and

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

will continue to suffer damage, are compensated adequately and on an equal basis, rather than compensation being offered only to those residents at the western end of Lake Erie as is presently the situation?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the understanding we have with the provincial authorities is that the compensation will apply to property owners, and in all areas, throughout the calendar year.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would hope hon. members would make an effort to limit the number of supplementaries. The hon. member for Oxford has another supplementary. He will be recognized, and then I will have to go to another subject. If there are too many supplementaries, this makes the question period impossible to manage.

DAMAGE ON GREAT LAKES—PROVISION OF SANDBAGS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Will the minister, as chairman of the cabinet committee dealing with the present emergency on the Great Lakes, make sure that at least sandbags are available should a second emergency situation occur, as is very likely? Apparently in the situation the weekend before last no sandbags were available for emergency diking purposes.

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, measures of this kind have been discussed with the province and with the Department of National Defence.

DAMAGE ON GREAT LAKES—SUGGESTED APPEARANCE OF INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION BEFORE COMMITTEE TO INDICATE ACTION TO LOWER LAKE LEVELS

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary to the Minister of the Environment. Because of the seriousness of the situation, would the minister see if it is possible to have some members or officials of the IJC appear before a committee of the House so that concerned members can find out what action is being taken or what action it might be possible to take to lower the lake levels?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, estimates of my department relating to protective works and to Great Lakes levels will be before the appropriate committee of the House in a few weeks time.

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[Translation]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Can he tell us whether the Liberal caucus or the cabinet have decided to withdraw or reduce the estimates of the CBC?

Mr. Speaker: The question is obviously out of order.