

FLOODS

SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK—REQUEST FOR FEDERAL AID FOR VICTIMS

Mr. Mike Landers (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of the Environment, and if I am allowed, I have a supplementary for the Minister of National Defence. In view of the flood situation in the Glen Falls area of Saint John, New Brunswick, what can the minister tell me about available aid for the flood victims?

[Translation]

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, if there is an emergency in that area, the province of New Brunswick may take the initiative to ask for help from the Department of National Defence, but it is up to that province to take such an initiative.

As to possible compensation for property damages, of course there is a program financed by the Department of the Environment ranging from 50 to 75 per cent of the costs, but there again the province must apply.

* * *

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

ASSISTANCE OF ARMED FORCES IN COMBATING FLOOD CONDITIONS AT SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. Mike Landers (Saint John-Lancaster): My supplementary question is to the Minister of National Defence. Has the province of New Brunswick requested assistance from the Department of National Defence to combat the flood conditions in Saint John, New Brunswick?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not received any request for assistance from the government of New Brunswick, but the armed forces will be ready to assist if they are required.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

FINANCE

REQUEST FOR ESTIMATE OF BUDGETARY DEFICIT FOR CURRENT YEAR

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of Finance now answer the question I asked him a couple of days ago with regard to whether he would tell us the estimated size of the budgetary deficit for the current year? I am sure the minister has this information. I have enough respect for him to believe he has this information, and I hope that I will have further respect when he gives it.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the current estimates are that the budgetary deficit for the fiscal year will be as set out by my predecessor at the time of the June budget. As an addendum to my

Oral Questions

response to an earlier question on another subject, the response yesterday of \$5 billion to \$6 billion was related to the cash requirements of the government, that is, both budgetary and non-budgetary.

* * *

BROADCASTING

PORTRAYAL OF VIOLENCE ON TELEVISION—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications. I should like to commend him on the manner in which he has been handling questions in the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McGrath: I hope he will soon be the minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McGrath: In view of the statement made by the Solicitor General in a speech in Ottawa on Wednesday that his department had concluded a two year study and found a relationship between crimes of violence and violence on television, what response can we expect from the CRTC? Has there been consultation between the Solicitor General's Department, the CRTC and the Department of Communications on this very important and disturbing subject?

Mr. Jim Fleming (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that I do not have full knowledge or an answer available for the hon. member at the moment, but I will obtain it. The hon. member certainly knows that I share with him a very real concern about this problem, as do hon. members on both sides of the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

URBAN AFFAIRS

REQUEST CENTRAL MORTGAGE NOT BUY ASHBURN GOLF COURSE IN HALIFAX

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, whom none of us would wish to see become an urban vandal. Would he advise Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation that it should not try to solve its need for land by attempting to buy such green land in Halifax as the Ashburn Golf Course, one of the aspects which makes my city one of the best in Canada in which to live?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I agree with the hon. member that his city is one of the best in which to live. I do not know what the handicap is on the golf course—