

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Is that all?

**Mr. Baldwin:** I should like to ask the Prime Minister, in respect of the question asked him earlier, if the government will give the same measure of attention to the recommendations of the committee on external affairs as they are apparently giving to the recommendation of the committee on transport and communications with regard to the railway service in Newfoundland.

**Mr. Hees:** A supplementary question—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think we should go on to a new subject.

### FINANCE

#### SUGGESTED REIMPOSITION OF CEILING ON BANK INTEREST RATES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Finance, one that was asked last Monday by my colleague the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. The Minister of Finance has probably seen it. In view of the very large profits announced by the banks of Canada, would the Minister of Finance give consideration to reimposing the ceiling on the interest rate, or to finding some other way of controlling interest rates, particularly on loans for housing mortgages?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I think the lifting of the ceiling on interest rates has meant that the marginal borrower in Canada has been able to borrow money at lower rates than when the ceiling was on. I think one should not only look at the profits of the banks; one must also look at those of all financial institutions, including finance companies, and at what is happening in this regard.

**Mr. Lewis:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's invalid elementary lecture on finance, but I should like to ask him whether in view of the profits which the banks are making he would at least consider renegotiating with the banks the interest rate on farm improvement loans, a subject matter within the purview of negotiation between the government and the lending institutions.

**Mr. Benson:** I do not think this is really necessary with respect to interest rates on farm improvement and student loans. In these cases what the borrower will have to pay

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

is the current government borrowing rate for a similar term plus a small margin to cover administrative costs. I think this is a fair arrangement, and I believe people generally will be happy with what has been done in this respect.

[Translation]

### AIRPORTS

#### QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO CONSTRUCTION IN EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the hon. Minister of Transport.

In view of the statement made on various occasions by the hon. minister in this house to the effect that the site of the future Quebec international airport would be known soon—that is in December—why have none of the briefs presented by the municipalities of Drummondville and Farnham as well as other towns located on the south shore not been considered up to now by the federal-provincial committee responsible for finding a site for the future international airport?

[English]

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** To the best of my knowledge the members of the technical committee have considered all possible sites. Obviously some of them are better than others, and they are concentrating their attention on the preferable ones.

[Translation]

[Later:]

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Since the Minister of Transport has used the expression "to the best of my knowledge", could I ask him to inquire officially from the federal-provincial committee and to give us an official answer on that, in order to assure us that the sites proposed by the municipalities on the south shore are really being considered because, according to our information, they are not?

[English]

### GRAIN

#### PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL DRYING AND TRANSPORT FACILITIES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board.