

there. He sent the message that he thought what we were suggesting appeared to be fair. However, there is no way that I, as federal Minister of Agriculture, can deal with the inequity of quotas and so on, which may be as the hon. member has intimated, and tell the provinces how its quota should be administered.

[Translation]

**Mr. Beaudoin:** Mr. Speaker, on a final supplementary.

Can the minister tell us whether the special envoy of the Quebec government is aware of the problem, whether he takes seriously the problem facing our manufacturing milk producers who have been wrongfully denied 25 per cent of their raw milk quotas in some provinces?

● (1430)

[English]

**Mr. Whelan:** The representative sent by the government of Quebec is very familiar with all aspects of the dairy industry. He is one of their top civil servants and he has attended many meetings in Ottawa in the past.

\* \* \*

#### FINANCE

##### REASON CHARTERED BANKS DELAYED LOWERING INTEREST RATES

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Has the government received an explanation from the chartered banks as to why they have chosen to delay lowering their prime lending rate until June 1 when the Bank of Canada obviously hoped for an immediate reduction in interest rates when it made its announcement last Friday. If such an explanation has been received, would the hon. gentleman inform the House as to its nature? I ask this, bearing in mind that every day's delay in lowering the rate by even half a point means that an extra one million dollars at least is being charged to Canadian borrowers.

**Mr. Bob Kaplan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I noted the article on which the hon. member bases his question. I have looked into the matter and it appears that some banks did respond immediately by lowering their rates but that others did not. I am disappointed that the banks did not respond more immediately to the change in monetary policy indicated by the governor. I expressed my disappointment to the governor and I expect that he will convey our views, and the views of hon. members expressed here, to the banks.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stevens:** The answer just given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance indicates that some banks have responded while others did not. Could the Acting Prime Minister or the parliamentary secretary go further and tell us

#### Oral Questions

what banks have failed to respond and what explanation has been received in this regard?

**Mr. Kaplan:** We have not asked the banks for an explanation. I do not think the article which I read indicated which banks had responded. But some have done so. I would point out that banks are in competition with each other. The public ought to know that some banks have responded and are offering to lend money at lower rates of interest than others, and govern itself accordingly.

**Mr. Stevens:** As the Provincial Bank has announced plans to lower consumer interest rates by half a per cent to 13 per cent, would the hon. gentleman indicate whether the government has used, or intends to use, moral suasion to induce banks which have not chosen to lower consumer interest rates to do so, bearing in mind that lower rates on consumer credit would help reduce prices and create the stimulus which is presumably needed to deal with unemployment?

**Mr. Kaplan:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the public has a free choice among the banks. If some banks are offering lower interest rates, the public ought to know it and act accordingly.

\* \* \*

#### CANADA SUMMER GAMES

##### INQUIRY AS TO PLANS FOR PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN

**Mr. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Amateur Sport and Fitness. The Canada Summer Games will take place in Newfoundland this year and I invite all hon. members to visit the province and enjoy our hospitality at that time. In view of the fact that there is now an urgent need in this country to express national unity, and since there is no more appropriate place to do this than on the sports field, I want to ask the minister, coming, as she does, from the beautiful west coast, what plans she has for the promotion of these games on the equally beautiful east coast?

**Hon. Iona Campagnolo (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)):** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We are in fact beginning to promote the Canada Games at this time. We have an agreement with the Western Canada Lottery to promote the games via television twice a week starting very shortly. Also, the CBC is scheduled to commence regional television promotions of St. John's and the Canada Games. Its live national coverage of the games will be the most extensive ever in the history of the Canada Games. I should like to offer an invitation to all hon. members to attend the official kick-off ceremonies which will be taking place on Monday, May 16.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!