

SCHEDULE OF APPLICATION FEES

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In the financial statement made by the Minister of Finance on November 8, the Minister announced plans to raise \$4.4 million by charging fees for immigration applications and social insurance numbers. Can the Minister tell us the exact fee she has in mind for immigration applicants? Will the fee be the same for all categories, including refugees?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there will be no fee for refugees. I would like to advise the Hon. Member and all other Hon. Members that the fee schedule is still being worked out. As soon as it is, he will be advised of that fact.

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THE ECONOMY

CONFIDENCE OF INVESTORS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance who, in his economic statement, projected that the economy would move in a particular direction over the next two years. By the day, starting off with the Conference Board, Informetrica, and the World Bank's trendicator, more and more projection houses are suggesting that the exact opposite is going to occur. Instead of moving in the direction as projected, we will be moving in another direction. The Minister refers to the necessity of building investor confidence. He knows that confidence will depend on stability and consistency, and on how people view the next number of months and the next number of years. Will the Minister explain to the people of Canada, through this House, how confidence is going to be built, when the Government marches to one drummer and the rest of Canada marches to another?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member will be quite aware that there are a number of points of view on the direction of the economy. The point of view that I expressed in my financial statement the other day was very close to the consensus view of something like 25 different economists in the country. There are always others like the Conference Board who will be out of step with that consensus. They have, however, been coming back closer to the consensus of the 25 other forecasters.

Mr. Riis: The Minister refers to the 25 out of 80,000 economists who agree with the direction. Perhaps we should be paying some attention to the others.

INTEREST RATE POLICY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. The assumption in the economic statement is based on the fact of a decrease in the deficit of the United States and a consequent reduction in

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interest rates. In the last couple of days, we hear from the projection houses in the United States—

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is a little bit unfair to the Member. Others today have been pushing supplementaries with preambles. We have started that practice again. I am sorry to rise when the Hon. Member is speaking but today we have got longer and longer and longer. I would, therefore, ask the Member please go to a question.

Mr. Riis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If things go wrong in the United States, will the Minister indicate to the House whether a "made-in-Canada" interest rate policy is part of the contingency plan that he has?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has been asking, both in this Parliament and in previous Parliaments, for a "made-in-Canada" interest rate policy. I should say to him that I believe, as do many other expert observers of the financial scene, that the "made-in-Canada" interest rate policy that his Party would propose is totally impractical and totally unworkable. We have felt that we can get more independence in our interest rate policy if we strengthen the economy. That is the basic direction of the agenda paper and the economic statement that I put out a week and one-half ago.

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ENERGY

COSTS OF ELECTRICITY IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It has to do with an election promise that the Prime Minister made in May, 1984, to the people of Prince Edward Island when at that time he pledged that he would, if elected, reduce energy costs to Prince Edward islanders. That was reiterated by his Party's candidates in the election campaign in Hillsborough, Malpeque, Cardigan, and Egmont. Three months have gone by since this campaign pledge was made. We still do not see any reduction in energy rates. When can Prince Edward islanders expect a decrease in electricity cost?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, Prince Edward islanders waited 20 years under the Liberals and got no satisfaction. After two months, they are starting to get some satisfaction under us.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Mulroney: I had a meeting with Premier Lee on this matter. I met with the Premier to review matters in which we might be helpful. The Minister of Energy held conversations in this regard with her counterpart *vis-à-vis* Prince Edward Island. I hope that we will be able to advise the Hon. Member and the House pursuant to these consultations.