

Oral Questions

he tell us whether or not he will allow those Canadians who are mortgaging through those two Crown corporations to renegotiate their mortgages for the three month penalty?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I have indicated already that I have made a large number of representations to the various financial institutions concerning specific cases. I still believe that a large number of cases have been taken care of on a voluntary basis by the institutions. I urged them to do so, but I have indicated already that we are also reviewing the situation in terms of the Interest Act.

RENEGOTIATION PENALTY

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. He has completely ignored the question. The question is the hypocrisy of the Liberal Government in expecting the traditional lending institutions to treat Canadians one way, when the Government itself and the institutions for which it is responsible are putting the screws on borrowers across the country, farmers, businessmen and other people who have been loaned money at 16 per cent to 22 per cent, with no relief. Will the Minister allow those borrowers to refinance with those institutions for the three-month penalty?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I never saw anything more hypocritical than a Progressive Conservative.

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LOUIS RIEL

REQUEST FOR POSTHUMOUS PARDON

Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency-Orléans): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister who undoubtedly knows that the Hon. Member for Edmonton East has introduced a Bill to grant a pardon to Louis Riel with a view to restoring his good name. Would the Prime Minister tell the House whether the Government would be prepared to support the initiative of the Hon. Member for Edmonton East by introducing a similar Bill in the next session, and to make the necessary representations to the Leader of the Official Opposition and the Leader of the New Democratic Party so as to ensure swift passage of that Bill by the Parliament of Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member knows that I share the sentiments of admiration which many people in this House have for the memory of Louis Riel, but I am not convinced that it would be useful to try to rewrite history, as proposed by the Hon.

Member. History is history and I fail to see how any legislation might possibly change history facts which occurred over a century ago. Still, my mind is not made up and I am open to arguments to the contrary.

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● (1450)

[English]

LABOUR RELATIONS

STRIKE AT "MACLEAN'S" MAGAZINE—REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications. As the Minister knows, his Government helped Maclean-Hunter to create *Maclean's* news weekly magazine with a \$6 million tax break in 1978 and a postal subsidy of over \$1.5 million. Now that Maclean-Hunter has forced *Maclean's* employees to strike for a first contract, job security, and pay levels nearer to industry rates, will the Minister use his good offices to persuade this publicly subsidized employer which, with \$24 million profits, can afford a quick and just settlement of this strike?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, what the Hon. Member is talking about is a general program which is applicable only to magazines published in Canada. It is not a subsidy in the sense of which he speaks. The Hon. Member knows full well that then the Government of Canada does not give a subsidy to a corporation, it does not start running the corporation's industrial relations. We do not believe in that type of society.

FAIR LABOUR PRACTICES

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Madam Speaker, in view of this abuse of public funds by Maclean-Hunter, will the Minister undertake to introduce amendments to the appropriate legislation that will make fair labour practice a condition of receiving such generous subsidies from the public purse?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member knows full well that when we talk about labour legislation in Canada, it applies in an indiscriminate fashion to all companies in this country. They obviously have to follow fair labour practices. Once again, that is the general law of the land. It is not something that the Department of Communications can or should be involved in directly.

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FINANCE

CONSIDERATION OF ACTION TO REDUCE MORTGAGE RENEWAL PENALTIES

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Madam Speaker, Members of all three Parties from time to time have