

Oral Questions

was between the Prime Minister, the premier of Saskatchewan and myself after the first ministers met with the Prime Minister two weeks ago. At that time, it was evident that there was no misunderstanding as to the true nature of the problem relating to equalization as it affects the situation.

Mr. Broadbent: A supplementary question. I listened with care to what the minister said, Mr. Speaker. He said there was no misunderstanding between himself, the Prime Minister and Premier Blakeney as to where the federal government stood. Is that what he is saying or is he telling the House that the Premier of Saskatchewan did accept the reversal of the agreement that was announced in this House on March 28?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, it was the intention of the Premier of Saskatchewan at that time to bring revenue from oil royalties, amounting to \$230 million extra this year, into a capital fund which under that understanding would not be considered for equalization purposes. On the other hand, Premier Lougheed of Alberta had made no such commitment, although he hoped to bring a substantial portion into the capital fund at that time. Whereas the amounts taken in by Saskatchewan would not be considered part of the equalization formula it was always evident to the Prime Minister and the premier of Saskatchewan that any amounts not brought in by Alberta would be part of the equalization formula. That is why on budget night I said that the general understanding was that in total the ratio would be about two-thirds to one-third which is the formula I intend to propose to the provinces.

● (1510)

Mr. Broadbent: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The minister's answer is still not clear. Is the minister saying that Saskatchewan is excluded, in terms of its use of the fund, from the general rule which he is applying to Alberta alone?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): No, Mr. Speaker. I should like to explain this in detail, although this is difficult to do in the question period.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure that it is proper to make that kind of explanation in detail during the question period. With the greatest respect, it has to do with the interpretation of the budgetary policy of the government, which is the very subject before the House today. I do not think we can expect the minister to give an explanation in detail in the limited time remaining in the question period. However, the minister may give a brief reply if he wishes.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I will be as brief as possible. It is apparent that the revenues affecting the Saskatchewan equalization position deriving from additional revenues from oil particularly are not only those revenues brought in through the coffers of the province of Saskatchewan but also revenues brought in to the Consolidated Revenue Fund by the province of Alberta. Therefore, the Saskatchewan equalization position can be affected by how Saskatchewan treats those revenues and,

[Mr. Turner (Minister of Finance).]

because of the different revenue position of Alberta, by how Alberta treats them.

* * *

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**STUDY OF SITE FOR STEEL-MAKING COMPLEX ON EAST COAST—DATE OF PUBLICATION**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Expansion. On October 30 I directed a question to the minister regarding the tabling of the Canstel steel report. At that time he said there were difficulties in translation and he would table it some time later. On November 14 I again asked, the same question. The minister said last week that he hoped to table the report by this week. He intended to discuss it with Premier Regan and hoped to present it to the House this week, as soon as the translation is complete. Is the translation complete and will he table the report either today or tomorrow.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if the translation has been completed. I had hoped to table the report tomorrow. In the meantime, perhaps we could make some kind of informal arrangement, in case the translation is held up, and I will be glad to make the report available, without tabling it, to interested parties on the understanding that I will table it in both languages later. If that is agreeable I would be glad to do that later, or tomorrow.

Mr. Muir: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that if the minister does as he suggests, he will receive support from both sides of this House. In view of the importance of the study to the three members from the Cape Breton area who are concerned about the future of steel in that area, I am sure that there will not be any objection to the minister's suggestion from any part of this House. Could we agree to do as the minister suggests?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will see that members who are interested, as long as it is not every member of the House, have copies available within the next 24 or 48 hours, or before the end of tomorrow.

Mr. McRae: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. As he is not in the House, I will not ask my question today.

* * *

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**POSITION OF APPLICATIONS FOR RADIO STATIONS AT PENTICTON, KELOWNA AND VERNON, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. Since the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is on record as stating that there will be full time CBC radio stations in the communities of Penticton, Kelowna and Vernon, B.