

[English]

FINANCE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE—SUBMISSION BY PROVINCES OF PROGRAMS TO ALLEVIATE UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask one further supplementary question of the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Minister of Finance is meeting with the provincial Ministers of Finance on December 7 and 8, I believe, has the federal government invited the provinces to submit at that time any programs they and their municipalities might have in the form of public works projects which might help to alleviate the unemployment situation to some extent?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I cannot answer that question, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of the agenda in detail. In the past the provinces have felt free to make such representations and I am sure they will in the future, but I cannot say whether this is specifically on the agenda.

IMPLEMENTATION OF BAY OF FUNDY TIDAL POWER PROJECT AS MEANS OF PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): In view of the heavy unemployment that always comes to us in the Atlantic area in the winter months, and in view of the lower interest rates that have been put into effect by the Bank of Canada, would the Prime Minister reconsider the proposal made by the task force that investigated the harnessing of the Bay of Fundy tides to see if that project, which would provide both short-range and long-range employment for people in the Atlantic area, could be implemented?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know of no such review going at the present time within the government but I will communicate the representations of the hon. member to the responsible minister.

CONSTRUCTION GRANTS OR LOW INTEREST LOANS TO AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS AS MEANS OF PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Len Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question I would like to direct to the Minister of Agriculture in connection with the governments program for combating unemployment. Would the minister consider making selected ex gratia payments to exhibition associations or similar organizations for the purpose of constructing much needed agricultural exhibition complexes, or the introduction of legislation to provide low interest financing for the construction of such facilities?

Mr. Speaker: I will allow the minister to reply to the question but I would think the hon. member's question, much in the same way as the question asked by the previous member, is in the form of a suggestion rather than a question. I would not think a question in those terms is quite in order, but perhaps the minister might be allowed to reply to this one.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member is aware that this kind of financing has been under consideration by the government from time to time for, I believe, about the last six years. However, the priorities in relation to the total amount of financing available have not been such that we have brought forward such a bill.

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, may I address a supplementary question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Would he discuss with the Treasury Board the releasing of funds to the Minister of Public Works and his department in order that they may proceed with the many necessary projects that they are anxious to build?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's question is of the same nature as the two questions asked previously. I would think it is in the form of a suggestion, and the hon. member has to assume that his suggestion will be considered by the government.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

POLICE EFFECTIVENESS IN SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPERS AND MURDERERS

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Before I ask it, I know I am speaking for all members of the House in expressing to him and Mrs. McIlraith the deepest sympathy of all of us in the trying days through which he and the family are passing.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, there has been some argument over the question as to which police officers or which police force were doing what work in Montreal. The police officers who discovered the home of the Secretary of State showed particular cunning and ability, but they did not display the same when they picked up Lortie. According to press reports, in the home where he was picked up there were three of the other wanted FLQ criminals. Is the minister in a position to advise, so that appropriate decorations may be given to these policemen, who they were and what forces they represented when displaying such nearsightedness?

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the right hon. gentleman for the reference preceding his question. I appreciate his remarks very much.

As to the question itself, the arrests, the subsequent search and the discovery of the alleged hiding place were carried out by the Montreal city police and the Quebec provincial police. Since that is the case I do not think it would be appropriate for me to make any comment as this is the responsibility of the Minister of Justice of Quebec.