

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McKnight: Second, it has the support of ten Cabinet Ministers from western Canada as well as the western caucus.

I would also point out to the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville that it was endorsed by four Premiers representing three political Parties in western Canada. The establishment of the initiative in western Canada, with a well respected Deputy Prime Minister to put forward the views of western Canadians, to be responsible for the diversification and the strengthening of the western economy, is something that I thought the Hon. Member would have supported.

Mr. Nystrom: Just like Allan MacEachen, he is dodging the question.

SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, western Canadians want an answer. On CTV's *Question Period* on Sunday, the Minister said: "If the program and the project would fit within an existing government department or existing government program, then they will be guided to that particular program". In light of that, will the Minister explain now to western Canadians why the money for the Salmonid Enhancement Program did not come from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and why the money for a national park did not come from the social policy reserve fund? Why did the money for both these projects come from the Western Diversification Fund?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is quite correct. The \$1.2 billion is new money. That means that for expenditures on the A basis, the budgets of those existing Departments, would be used first, naturally. Is the Hon. Member suggesting that the \$1.2 billion should substitute for the billions of dollars that already go to western Canada in energy, transportation, and CEIC? Is that the stand of the New Democratic Party?

Mr. Nystrom: We are asking for new money, not money that has been previously committed from other government Departments. The Minister knows that and is afraid to answer the question.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO PROVINCES

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, I will try again. The Minister said recently that the money would not be allocated on a per capita basis in western Canada. How much money will be allocated to the Province of Manitoba, how much money will be allocated to Saskatchewan, how much money to the Province of Alberta and how much money to British Columbia? Western Canadians want to know.

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure, but maybe the Hon. Member would like it by municipality, too.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McKnight: My colleague comes from the same province as I. He must recognize that there are initiatives that can be taken in Manitoba that strengthen Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. There are initiatives taken in British Columbia that can strengthen the other three provinces.

To divide the fund and make it on a per capita basis goes against what the region of western Canada expressed through its Premiers. The Premiers wish to have the opportunity to build on the strengths of their provinces. The men and women wish to have that opportunity.

The Member criticized the Salmonid Enhancement Program.

An Hon. Member: Rubbish. That is not true.

Mr. McKnight: That is not what the critic for his Party said. He encouraged my colleague, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, to provide more money. Naturally, that will build on the strengths of the fishery industry in British Columbia and we intend to continue to do that.

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FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

PRINCIPAL SAVINGS AND TRUST BANKRUPTCY

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. As a result of First Investors and Associated Investors going bankrupt, and now the difficulty with Principal Savings and Trust, and the effects those companies have on some 60,000 Canadians, there are major questions concerning the integrity and incompetence of the management and directors of those companies, as well as the role that Governments have played or have failed to play in this entire exercise.

When did CDIC first become aware of the difficulties in which Principal Savings and Trust is now involved? What was the extent of the investigation that was subsequently launched? What does he intend to do with those individuals who may have been in breach of the law? Finally, will the Minister not now table for the benefit of all Canadians the report that he has in his possession from officials of CDIC regarding this most important financial matter?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, I am glad the Hon. Member has been a little more careful than yesterday in asking his questions. The effect of what he was asking yesterday was really to mislead the Canadian people. Essentially, he said that the Canada Deposit