

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—GRANT TO PROJECT WHERE MARIJUANA ALLEGED TO BE GROWN

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, now that the parliamentary secretary has opened this up I can ask my question with more validity. Did the Opportunities for Youth program provide a substantial grant to a youth hostel or youth farm in the vicinity of Prince George, British Columbia, which has been found to be involved in the growing of marijuana, and for which two Americans were convicted in Prince George on Friday last?

**Mr. James Hugh Faulkner (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State):** Again, Mr. Speaker, it would be important to pinpoint this instance. The project that I suspect the hon. member is referring to is the Northern Wilderness project. It is very important to be specific because there are something like 2,400 projects. But assuming that we are talking about the same project—

**Mr. Baldwin:** I think we are.

**Mr. Faulkner:**—I might go further and say that no funds have reached this project. The land in question is leased to the Salmon Valley youth program for camp purposes. Because of the questions that have been raised this project has been suspended and no funds will be advanced until it has received further study.

[Later:]

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the parliamentary secretary specifically whether any money was provided and paid over to the particular project near Prince George. Related to that question or as part of the same question, may I ask about the suggestion made by Mr. Ellis, the co-ordinator of programs in that area, that the whole business was arranged by mail without any opportunity for a review of the details?

**Mr. Faulkner:** Mr. Speaker, I think I did answer the first part of the question when I said no funds have yet reached that project and that the project is now suspended pending further investigation. As to the charges made by Mr. Ellis, I shall have to take the question as notice and look into the matter.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—ALLEGED GRANT TO ROCHDALE GROUP TO CONSTRUCT ORGANIC FARM

**Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which I should like to direct to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State. Is the Opportunities for Youth program going to provide \$26,000 to a Rochdale-based youth project to construct an organic farm? If so, will the farm be in the hallways and corridors of the building?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The parliamentary secretary may wish to reply to the question asked, though I doubt whether it was put in such a way that it should be replied to. I hope there will not be a suggestion that all of these 2,400, or whatever the number is, projects which

[Mr. Faulkner.]

have apparently been approved or are being approved under the program will be questioned one after the other, because we would certainly have to extend the question period in that case.

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary secretary said the Secretary of State would not be making a statement in the House until Friday. Is the reason he is waiting till Friday, and has chosen that particular day, that everyone knows that any other statement made on budget day will be submersed and never come to light?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** It might be more interesting than the budget.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—SUMMARY OF PROJECTS NOT APPROVED WITH REASONS THEREFOR

**Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the parliamentary secretary whether it is the intention of the Secretary of State to publish a summary of the projects that have not been approved, with a brief statement as to why that is the case? Are the applicants whose projects have not been approved being advised as to the reasons for non-approval of their applications?

**Mr. James Hugh Faulkner (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State):** I will have a look into this, Mr. Speaker. One of the obvious difficulties is that there were something like 13,000 projects and to reply to each one individually with an explanation as to why it was not approved does pose some logistical problems. I am not sure what the minister's intentions are but he might very well reveal them on Friday.

[Translation]

## FINANCE

## INFLATION—REDUCTION OF BANK INTEREST RATES AND SERVICE CHARGES

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance.

At a recent meeting of the Canadian Bankers Association the ex-president of that Association stated that the net income of chartered banks in Canada, in 1970, totalled \$543 million, as compared to \$450 million the previous year. In view of such a situation, would the Minister of Finance advise the House if he would be willing to demand a reduction of interest rates and service charges which were increased within the last months, so as to help the government fight inflation and solve the unemployment problem?

[English]

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, this is a very complicated question. What I can say is that short-term rates over the past year have come down substantially in Canada to a point where they are somewhat below United States rates.