

Oral Questions

in the private sector particularly, as does Polysar. As all hon. members who have been in business will know, there are some awful mistakes in the private sector, too.

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AIR TRANSPORT**CANADA-CUBA ROUTE—POSSIBLE COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport whose involvement in the question period is essential to a good day. In light of the significantly increasing volume of air travel between Canada and Cuba by charter and via the circuitous Mexico City route, is he now in a position to advise that the long continuing negotiations for a direct and regular Canada-Cuba service are approaching a successful conclusion, and when does he expect this direct service to begin?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge there are no negotiations with Cuba going on at this moment. Of course, there are charters going to Cuba once in a while, but that is all I can say.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS**DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND NATIVE PEOPLE ON IMPROVING HOUSING STARTS**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, if I can get his attention. In view of the statement yesterday dealing with Indian Affairs by the assistant deputy minister to the effect that the number of houses being built for native people represents only a fraction of the number needed, I should like to know whether officials of the minister's department are meeting with senior officials of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and representatives of the National Indian Brotherhood to determine whether the process of building homes for native people can be expedited in the very near future?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the brotherhood has given me its proposal on housing which is being analyzed by officials of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and my department. We are hopeful that we can make very significant headway in respect of this housing construction.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the position of the National Indian Brotherhood was presented to the department and the government last April, almost six months ago, can the minister indicate when in the near future they might reach an agreement, or when there will be further discussions, which might lead to an agreement, with representatives of the National Indian Brotherhood?

[Mr. Danson.]

Mr. Buchanan: Mr. Speaker, I hope to be bringing forward some proposals in this area within the next three to four weeks.

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HEALTH**ALLEGED HOARDING OF PANCREASES FOR MAKING OF INSULIN—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, in view of reports that beef and pig pancreases, from which insulin is made, are being hoarded by at least one major Canadian meat packing plant, is the Minister of National Health and Welfare carrying on an investigation into this matter to determine whether this allegation is true and that the interests of all diabetics in Canada are fully protected, as they have been in the past?

● (1450)

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for raising this question and for giving me notice of it. Indeed as soon as the news report was published in the press I asked my department to investigate the matter. The preliminary investigation which has been carried on seems to indicate that at the present time there is no evidence of hoarding, but my department is continuing the investigation and will be meeting with representatives of the drug industry, meat packers, the Canadian Diabetic Association and officials of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce to pursue this matter further. I shall be glad to give a further report to the hon. member at a later stage as soon as I have this report. I might point out that at the present time contact with the main producer in Canada, Connaught Laboratories, indicates there is no immediate shortage of insulin in Canada.

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FARM CREDIT CORPORATION**ALLEGED LACK OF FUNDS—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Since the Farm Credit Corporation has only sufficient money to meet all its loans up to October 4, which is past, and since it is almost certain that the Farm Credit Corporation will actually run out of money by March 1975, I should like to ask the minister what his department is doing about this matter, which could develop into a very serious situation, in order to ensure that an adequate supply of money is channeled into essential areas so far as agriculture is concerned.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the amount of money that the Farm Credit Corporation lends has indeed doubled and nearly tripled this year, because it appears now that more people have confidence in agriculture and want to expand their holdings and so on. We lent over \$186 million a year ago and \$400 million last year. At the rate we are going it will be over