

there have been many instances in which the House has heard ministers announce federal assistance to alleviate or repair flood damage in any cases where the province had so requested. Last year there was a case in British Columbia where the federal government supplied funds to the tune of several millions of dollars. This happens all the time. There is a federal policy. It is important that the provinces and the provincial governments themselves realize the extent of the occurrences.

Mr. Lawrence: Is the Prime Minister then indicating that if the province of Ontario indicated some desire for the federal government to intervene in this matter, in respect of the lower Great Lakes this year, that federal assistance would be forthcoming?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question is hypothetical.

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FINANCE

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT INTERVENE TO PREVENT SUGGESTED INCREASE IN INTEREST RATES BY CHARTERED BANKS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of widespread reports from financial circles that Canadian chartered banks are planning in the near future to raise their interest rate structures, and as, of course, this would greatly slow down industrial expansion and job opportunities, has the minister been in touch with the presidents of these institutions or, if not, will he point out this important fact and request that interest rates not be raised at this important time?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly take the representation of the hon. gentleman into consideration.

[Translation]

BRIEF OF CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE ON CAPITAL GAINS TAX—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

A paragraph of the brief submitted to the cabinet last week by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture reads as follows:

The capital gains tax concession on the transfer of farms within a family is so designed that it makes any serious planning of operations almost impossible; it does not even include property other than land.

Can the minister tell the House if he examined the paragraph and what answer he intends to give concerning that request?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I even attended the submission of that brief and answered the federation. For a more final answer, the House will have to wait for the text of the bill.

Oral Questions

[English]

TRANSPORT

CLOSING OF RAILWAY STATIONS IN WESTERN CANADA—SUGGESTION TRANSPORT COMMISSION WILL ONLY HEAR BRIEFS FROM LAWYERS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport in connection with the proposal to close railway stations in western Canada. As Canadian National is holding at many points and as a representative of the Saskatchewan government is on hand to inform the public that briefs to the Canadian Transport Commission will only be heard after there has been consultation with lawyers, has the Canadian Transport Commission removed itself so much from the public that people have to resort to lawyers, or will briefs presented by the public generally be heard by the commission?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will inquire of the commission and give an answer to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Korchinski: May I ask the minister whether the meeting that he suggested early in January he will hold with provincial representatives is any closer today than it was in January?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, it is closer today that it was in January.

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MANPOWER

POSSIBLE ACTION TO HAVE EMPLOYERS LIST ALL AVAILABLE JOBS WITH LOCAL OFFICES

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister and Immigration. In view of the fact that those who are applying for unemployment insurance benefits must first register with local manpower offices, and in view of the fact it was revealed by the Swadron committee report that only 23 per cent of available jobs in Canada are registered with manpower offices across the country, is the minister considering any action to have employers list all jobs available with local manpower offices?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we are not considering any compulsory action, of course, because that would not be in our jurisdiction, nor proper. We are appealing to all employers across this country on every possible occasion to do so. I might say that we have indicated to unemployment insurance claimants that we would prefer that they do not use the services of manpower offices only but to search for jobs beyond that, which is part of the statement I made the other day.

Mr. Rodriguez: Does the minister think it is fair that people who are unemployed . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.