

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REVIEW OF INCENTIVE GRANTS PROGRAM IN LIGHT OF CRITICISM

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the concerns which have been expressed by the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona and others about regional development incentive grants, including such things as two grants being made to one operation where there is simply a fence running down the middle of the plant, grants being made to marginal operations and grants being made to operations which have already been started, as well as the concerns about the extent of grants to foreign concerns, is any review being made of this program with a view to taking into account these concerns?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we are continuously, especially through the Treasury Board, attempting to assess the value of our various programs. If the hon. member has any particular details that he wants to communicate to the minister responsible, I am sure his information would be welcome.

PROPOSED GRANT FOR PULP MILL IN MEADOW LAKE AREA

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, in view of the visit by the Prime Minister and other members of the cabinet to Saskatchewan last weekend, is the Prime Minister in a position to inform the House whether any progress has been made with regard to a grant for a pulp mill in the Meadow Lake area in view of statements made by the Premier of Saskatchewan to that effect yesterday?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know that the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion was to be in Meadow Lake and that he discussed this matter with members of Mr. Thatcher's cabinet, but I am not in a position to say if and when an announcement will be made on his behalf.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

MAINTENANCE OF ESSENTIAL DEFENCE CAPABILITIES IN THE EVENT OF BREAKDOWN IN LABOUR NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. In view of the very serious differences that have arisen in the last few days in negotiations between defence employees and the Crown—and pray God that the negotiations do not break down—could the minister

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indicate what plans he has to maintain essential defence capabilities, including the search and rescue capability, on the east coast, in the event of a serious breakdown in labour negotiations?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the question is hypothetical.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of National Defence give some assurance to the House and to Canadians generally that he will not permit a serious breakdown in labour negotiations that would affect our defence capabilities?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): As the hon. member should know, these negotiations come under the responsibility of my colleague the President of the Treasury Board. I am following them with active interest, but of course the responsibility is that of my colleague.

FUTURE USE OF MEAFORD TANK RANGE

Mr. Percy V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): My question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. Now that military operations at the Meaford tank range have been terminated, can the minister tell the House what plans he may have for the future use of this property or for its disposal?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): As a result of the examination of the usefulness of properties in western Ontario for military purposes it is not entirely impossible that the Meaford Range, instead of being phased out, may continue to be used as a range. As the hon. member knows, we have a severe problem anyway because of the large quantity of unexploded ammunition on this site.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE NATIONALIZATION OF ALCAN PLANT BY GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): I wish to direct my question to the taciturn Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It concerns an important possible takeover. Is he in a position to advise the House and the country of any new developments with reference to the seemingly imminent nationalization by the government of Guyana of the important Alcan establishment there?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): No, Mr. Speaker. We are following the discussions between the government of Guyana and the Canadian company very closely but I am not in the position to say anything on the subject today.