

INDUSTRY

TAKEOVER OF BRUCK MILLS BY JAPANESE COMPANIES—
PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH MINISTER—DEVELOPMENT
GRANTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the takeover in July of a Canadian company, Bruck Mills of Quebec, which I believe employs over 2,000 people, by two Japanese companies, and also in view of the fact that Bruck Mills since 1971 has received over \$900,000 in DREE grants, can the minister say whether he was consulted about this takeover and, if so, can he guarantee that it is of significant benefit to this country?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I was not consulted about the takeover. As the hon. member knows, there was no requirement in law on the part of the Japanese interests to consult me, but just as soon as we get Bill C-132 through the House there will be.

Mr. Baldwin: When?

Mr. Nystrom: Has the minister considered approaching the two Japanese companies about the \$900,000 in DREE grants, and will he also undertake to table in the House a list of all companies that have been taken over by any foreign concern or enterprise during this calendar year?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I believe that information has been made known to the House on an earlier occasion with respect to DREE grants.

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IMMIGRATION

POSITION OF PERSONS NOT COVERED BY AMENDMENTS
TO APPEAL BOARD ACT

Mr. Peter Stollery (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Can the minister inform the House what he intends to do now with those persons who are not covered by the amendments to the Immigration Appeal Board Act and who come or are due to come before that board?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member will be aware, when Bill C-197 was made law it did not include a special adjustment for those people who had already been ordered deported, but I did undertake at the time in the House to cause the department to review administratively all those cases under appeal to the board which might otherwise have been eligible for consideration under the relaxed criteria involved in Bill C-197. That process is under way now. Some 8,000 or 9,000 cases have been reviewed and many of them have now been referred to the Immigration Appeal Board. We will proceed with these measures with dispatch.

Oral Questions
TRANSPORT

RAILWAY FREIGHT RATES—EXTENT OF FREEZE

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. As on August 30 the minister stated in the House that the railways had agreed to an 18-month freight rate freeze and as on September 1, one day later, the railways increased their rates by 6 per cent on all agreed charges, can the minister advise the House what happened to the 18-month freight rate freeze?

● (1430)

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Something very simple, Mr. Speaker, that was explained to the House, that when I asked the railways not to increase their rates I mentioned their normal rates, but I said that does not prevent the railways modifying their agreed rates. That means that if they and a company agree I cannot do anything.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT OF FARM CREDIT LAW TO
COUNTERACT INCREASE IN OPERATING COST

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the fact that the prices of farms, livestock and equipment have nearly doubled since 1965, and that federal officials and advisers responsible for granting and administering the loans secured through the Farm Credit Corporation must still apply appraisal criteria set in 1965, thereby preventing the sons of a great many farmers from purchasing their family farms, does the hon. Minister of Agriculture or the government intend to do something about this during the next session?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we are reviewing the present farm credit legislation.

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TRANSPORT

PREVENTION OF ABRIDGEMENT OF PRINCE EDWARD
ISLAND'S RIGHT TO FERRY LINK WITH MAINLAND—
POSSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT OPERATION OF SERVICE

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister actively seeking means whereby Prince Edward Island's constitutional right to transportation links with the rest of Canada will not again be abridged? In particular, can he advise if he is looking favourably upon the suggestion that these ferries, which are owned by the government of Canada, be operated directly by that government which has responsibility therein?