

Whereas the sums of money handed out to the provincial authorities in the form of economic incentives and loans represent double taxation for the provinces, would the minister tell the House whether it is prepared to reconsider this matter and to hand out grants rather than loans to the provinces as economic incentives?

[English]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend's allegation is sheer nonsense.

[Translation]

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance.

Considering the minister's reply, does he really feel that the objection raised by the premier of Quebec, Mr. Bourassa, is also pure nonsense?

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

NATURE OF TENDER CALL FOR BROILER CHICKENS TO EXPORT TO FAR EAST

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, there was no reply to the question I asked yesterday, which is reported at page 3245 of *Hansard*. I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce could look at that question and reply to it before the end of the present question period.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise the hon. member, with regard to the question that he raised yesterday in connection with tenders called for the purchase of three million pounds of broilers for export to the Far East, that this was an open tender. The relevant section of the tender reads as follows:

Tenders will be accepted from persons normally engaged in the processing, wholesaling, brokerage or exporting of poultry products.

In fact, invitations to tender were requested by and sent to 35 firms across Canada. I have the figures for each region if the hon. member wishes them. I can assure the hon. member that firms in all regions of Canada were invited to tender.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I bring to the attention of the hon. member for Fraser Valley West, who wishes to ask a supplementary, that we are running short of time. Perhaps, to clear the matter up, the hon. member might be allowed another question, after which I shall recognize the hon. member for Annapolis Valley.

Mr. Rose: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question is for the Minister of Agriculture. I understand that arrangements have been completed for another shipment of four million pounds of broilers. Can the minister tell the House whether or not this four million pound order has involved any government assistance?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, no orders or tenders have been finalized with any assistance from the government because the tenders will not close until tomorrow.

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INFORMATION CANADA

RESEARCH PROJECT ON RELATIONS WITH PROVINCES

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of Information Canada. In view of the special commission arranged by the Director General of Information Canada to conduct research on the past and future relations of the federal government with the various departments of the province of Quebec, can the minister tell the House if such a research program is also to be conducted with the other provinces of Canada or is the minister satisfied that those relations have been in good order all the time?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio): Yes, and no, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanbury: The answer is yes to the first question and no to the second. We are conducting very favourable discussions with various provinces on interrelationships between information programs. I think each province is evincing a great deal of interest. We have noticed a particularly strong interest among candidates for the leadership of the Conservative party in Ontario in establishing an agency similar to Information Canada.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I am referring to the directive of the Director General of February 2. May I ask the minister whether a specific research program has been instituted and whether a commissioner has been appointed by the Director General to investigate relations between the federal government and the other nine provinces of Canada, since the minister is a member of the cabinet of a government that does not believe in special status for anybody?

Mr. Stanbury: No, Mr. Speaker, but I think the hon. member would agree that there is a particular need to ensure that our fellow Canadians in Quebec understand their relationship with the federal government. I hope the hon. member will appreciate this and agree that it is extremely important to the future of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

FARM PRODUCTS MARKETING BILL—APPLICATION TO GROUPS OF PRODUCERS

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.