

minister, changed his mind and broke that promise by attempting to demote Mr. Powers to the position of vice-chairman, a demotion which Mr. Powers refused to accept?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, Mr. Powers and I have been friends for a long time. We made this decision and we are still friends. Mr. Powers has agreed to meet me in January, to discuss other responsibilities which I feel he is capable of fulfilling in Agriculture Canada. He has made a tremendous contribution to Agriculture Canada. He is a tremendous individual; but the workload in today's dairy commission is most demanding. I talked to him about his own and his family's position. We discussed these questions in total before the decision was made. When I offered him the vice-chairmanship of the commission, he said he would rather not be a member of the commission because he did not think it would be fair to the new chairman of the commission if the old chairman were to sit at his side as vice-chairman.

I respected Mr. Powers for that position. Let me say that I also talked to his doctor and discussed Mr. Powers' position in an attempt to learn if Mr. Powers could fulfil the full-time obligations of this board. It is a demanding job and needs someone working at it full time. Mr. Powers agreed with what we had decided. As I said, we parted on amiable terms and we still have respect for one another.

**Mr. Beatty:** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister confirm that when Mr. Powers took his sick leave he was promised by the minister that his job would be waiting for him when he returned? Secondly, may I ask—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. With respect to the hon. member, I suggest that he has precisely repeated his earlier question.

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## FINANCE

### POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING ACCELERATED WRITE-OFF PROGRAM FOR ANTI-POLLUTION EQUIPMENT

**Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot):** Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Finance relates to accelerated capital cost allowances for purchasers of anti-pollution equipment. Since the accelerated write-off program is scheduled to end on December 31, will the Minister of Finance say if he intends to extend this provision for the 50 per cent per annum write-off and, if so, for how long a period would that extension be in effect?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, certain of the provisions in this regard were dealt with at the time of the budget this year. Perhaps it would be better if I talked to the hon. gentleman about specific items he has in mind, because the treatment is not necessarily uniform.

## Oral Questions

### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### MINISTERS' VIEW OF ACCELERATED WRITE-OFF PROGRAM FOR ANTI-POLLUTION EQUIPMENT

**Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my supplementary question to the Minister of the Environment? Is it the minister's view that the accelerated capital cost allowances program has been successful and does the minister think that the program should be extended for at least one more year?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. With respect, that is seeking an opinion of the minister rather than information.

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## PERFORMING ARTS

#### SALUTE TO NATIONAL BALLET ON TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could risk a diversion to a happier aspect of life in our country and ask the Secretary of State if he will join with me in a salute to the National Ballet of Canada on the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding, an event brilliantly celebrated in its home city of Toronto?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to join in the remarks of the distinguished hon. member. Last Friday I was at the performance of the National Ballet, to mark its twenty-fifth anniversary. On that occasion I made a short speech to congratulate Celia Franka for her splendid work over the past twenty-five years in making this company one of the most extraordinary and important parts of Canada's cultural heritage.

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[Translation]

## IMMIGRATION

#### ALLEGED IMMINENT DEPORTATION OF CHILEAN FAMILY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Could the minister tell the House what his department intends to do in the case of the Chilean citizen, Mr. Romeo Humberto Ponce Bustos and his family who, although they have been living in Montreal for more than a year, will soon be deported and who would undoubtedly be in danger if they had to go back to Chile after being deported from Canada?

[English]

**Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his representations on behalf of this particular family. I had looked into the matter personally. They have gone through all the appeal