

[English]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

STUDY BY C. L. DUDLEY INDICATING DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES INEFFECTUAL—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON RELOCATION OF NEW INDUSTRIES

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. It would appear that the conclusions of a recent study by Professor C. L. Dudley of the University of Ottawa's department of geography and regional planning indicate that the regional development incentives of the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion have been ineffectual in inducing manufacturers to establish new plants in the nation's economically depressed areas. The study goes on to say that while increased business activity may have been stimulated and new jobs created, in many cases this growth is marginal and tends to serve those industries already located within the depressed regions.

Will the minister please explain to the House why so few attempts have been made to relocate new industries, which would far better serve to stimulate the over-all growth and development of these depressed regions than by further subsidizing traditional industry groups?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, if I may reply to the last half of the question first, obviously the main reason we have not sought to relocate industry is that hon. members on both sides of the House would be properly opposed to such a policy of moving industry from one location to another. As for the findings of the study, I have not seen them in detail, but may I say that, by and large, regarding our not being able to persuade certain kinds of industry to locate in slow growth areas I can make the same comment that I have made several times previously, namely that this is one of the problems with the program that we are seeking to try to correct.

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INDUSTRY

LUMBER—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO STIMULATE MARKETS

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In response to questions previously put to him regarding the depressed state of the lumber industry in Canada, the minister replied that his department is studying the situation and will be making recommendations. Is the minister prepared today to inform the House what action his department is planning to alleviate some of these very serious problems?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we have been examining this question in some considerable depth but our study is not yet completed. I do not expect to have any announcement this week, but as soon as a decision has been taken I will announce it in the House, which is the appropriate place.

*Oral Questions***AIR TRANSPORT**

EFFECT OF POSSIBLE DEFICIT OF AIR CANADA ON DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL AND THIRD LEVEL CARRIERS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Knowing that the Minister of Transport is keeping the financial affairs of Air Canada under his keen scrutiny, I should like to ask him whether in his opinion the anticipated deficit of Air Canada will have any adverse effects on the orderly development of regional air and third level air carriers?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): My answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. MacKay: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have been in some difficulty two or three times this afternoon with questions that are really seeking either a very general expression of opinion or a general expression of government policy. I have tried not to interfere with those questions and have let them be posed, but I have moved away from allowing a supplementary question. If this kind of question is going to be put, then I think it is fair that hon. members ought not to expect to ask a supplementary. When a question of a general nature is asked, hon. members will have to expect a general reply. In this case perhaps the hon. member would be more specific.

● (1450)

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of abusing the privileges of the House, but perhaps I did not put the question as well as I should have. I was really rising on a point of order as I did not catch the minister's reply. I did not hear what he said.

An hon. Member: He didn't say anything.

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I said very plainly that I did not think so.

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IMMIGRATION

HAITIANS—REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the hon. Minister for Manpower and Immigration.

Could the minister tell the House, to clarify the situation, if it is true that following some pressing representations made by his colleagues in caucus this morning—

An hon. Member: What do you know about that?

Mr. Wagner: —is it true he is going to change his inflexible attitude concerning the future of Haitian refugees?