

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

WARNING BY BANK PRESIDENTS OF INSTABILITY IN 1970

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Has the minister taken under careful advisement the warnings of the presidents of two of Canada's leading banks that the economy is showing some very disquieting signs of instability and slowdown in the early 1970's?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have simply read the same newspaper reports as my hon. friend regarding what the heads of two chartered banks have said.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If this matter is under careful advisement, what changes does the government envisage in its monetary and fiscal policies in the event that there is such a slowdown in the early 1970s?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that if the minister feels this information should be given to the House it should be presented in a statement on motions.

HARBOURS

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON SMALL VESSEL REGULATIONS

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport always looks so comfortable in his seat that I hesitate to disturb him with a question. However, I feel compelled to ask him to inform the House whether we are now any closer to having a statement of new policy with respect to small vessel harbour administration on the Pacific coast than we were when I asked him the question several weeks ago?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are several weeks closer.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Later:]

Mr. Barnett: As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister to be somewhat more explicit and tell us how much closer we are?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Inquiries of the Ministry TRANSPORT

RAILWAY ORDER RESPECTING FROST DAMAGE TO FLOWERS

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): While I am out of my comfortable seat, Mr. Speaker, may I have Your Honour's indulgence to reply to two questions asked recently by hon. members.

The first question was from the right hon. member for Prince Albert who a few days ago was worrying about flower power. I am happy to advise him and others who have requested the information that the owners' risk provision on flower shipments will be lifted as of December 15. The necessary arrangements have been made.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

POSTPONEMENT OF INCREASE IN POTASH FREIGHT RATE

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): The answer to the other question, Mr. Speaker, is that the Canadian Transport Commission has advised that the railways are prepared to accede to the request of the Premier of Saskatchewan for a postponement of the effective date for the 6 per cent increase in the freight rate on potash shipped to Vancouver.

BABY CHICKS—REGULATION RESPECTING OWNERSHIP RISK

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Transport. It relates to the ownership risk provisions. Is it planned that they will also be lifted on the shipment of day-old baby chicks?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have been involved with flowers to date. I will now take on my hon. friend's chicks.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Translation]

HEALTH INSURANCE

PAYMENT BY QUEBEC RESIDENTS OF ONTARIO PREMIUMS

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is he aware that federal employees, residing in Quebec, must contribute to the Ontario health insurance plan?