

Oral Questions

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I would certainly be happy to look into this matter with the hon. member. I remind him that as far as quota and licencing are concerned, the management of the inland fishery is under provincial responsibility.

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MULTICULTURALISM

DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour who is responsible for the multiculturalism policy in our country, something that seems to be evaporating before our eyes. Will the minister inform the House when he anticipates the cabinet will reach a decision on the direction of the multiculturalism policy in view of the fact that institution of this policy was once regarded as a priority by his government?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member may have noticed, at the conference last week I reaffirmed the government's commitment to this policy. I indicated that we may be putting more emphasis on two others, the first and second fundamental tenants of the policy which the Prime Minister announced. With regard to other changes in the policy, the government will be giving consideration to those. If in due course any changes in the overall context of the policy are made by the government, that will be announced in the House.

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FOREIGN INVESTMENTTAKEOVER OF CHECKERBOARD FOODS BY SWIFT CANADIAN—
REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the conflicting and apparently premature reports appearing in the national press and emanating from the minister's department concerning the long awaited decision on the proposed takeover of Checkerboard Foods by Swift Canadian Company Limited, will the minister clarify the present status of this application?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the decision is that in so far as the Foreign Investment Review Agency is concerned, and those matters which come within its jurisdiction, there is no impediment to allowing this particular transaction to take place. There is, however, a question relating to a potential offence against the Combines Act—I suppose one might describe it as that—and this is now being considered by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. As far as the Foreign Investment Review Agency is concerned, they have met the necessary criteria in that regard.

[Mr. Whiteway.]

● (1530)

MULTICULTURALISM

CONFIDENCE OF CABINET IN POLICY

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): My supplementary question is directed to the minister responsible for multiculturalism. Will he explain the apparent reluctance of the cabinet to discuss the shift in emphasis within the multicultural program with any degree of urgency? Does the hon. gentleman feel that this indecisiveness indicates a lack of confidence on the part of the cabinet in this policy direction?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): No, Mr. Speaker. I have detected a high degree of enthusiasm among my colleagues, as well as those on the backbenches for this over-all policy.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSIONDATE OF DECISION ON AID TO NEW BRUNSWICK IN
CONTROLLING SPRUCE BUDWORM

Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has the minister received any request to assist in controlling the spruce budworm infestation of New Brunswick forests which is now reaching critical proportions? Has he made a decision on the matter and, if not, when may we expect one?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, when the officials from my department discussed this problem with the government of New Brunswick several months ago, it was agreed then that my department would not participate in the fight against this infestation because there were other provisions in this regard. We know what happened since then and representations were made at the federal level. There were also consultations between my colleague of the Department of the Environment and myself and they are still going on; but we have not yet reached a decision. We still have to wait before it is made public. I cannot say specifically what steps the federal government will take in this case.

[English]

POSSIBLE USE OF UNSPENT FUNDS TO AID NEW BRUNSWICK
IN CONTROLLING SPRUCE BUDWORM

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Does the minister not think it would be a good idea to use the funds allocated but not spent in connection with the regional economic expansion program amounting, in the case of New Brunswick, to some \$10 million, for this purpose?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I do not know exactly what is the allocated but unspent amount to which the hon. member referred. It is possible that funds allocated for an