

*Oral Questions*

ready to announce any decisions, my hon. friend will be among the first to know about them.

**Mr. Hees:** Madam Speaker, I am very glad to hear the minister is moving on this matter, but would he give serious consideration to moving quite a bit faster? Although he is making some move, I must advise him that the efficiency and effectiveness of his department is today still far below what it was in the golden era.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Is that the Glenn Miller era?

**Mr. Gray:** Madam Speaker, I am not sure whether my hon. friend is referring to the era when the member for Ottawa-Carleton was the minister. Certainly the concept which the hon. member has mentioned is worthy of serious study, and that is what we are doing.

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**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT****INQUIRY RESPECTING PROPOSED DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS**

**Mr. Gordon Gilchrist (Scarborough East):** Madam Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Whenever we remind the government of the gross inadequacies of research spending these days, we are told by his colleague, the Minister of State for Science and Technology, about the Mitels, the Canadairs, the jets and all the other things being developed by government research spending, and I think that makes the case for us. The only problem is that enough is not being done in this field. Many times the minister has alluded to soon to be unveiled plans for research spending and for industrial growth in this country to build on the unique Canadian resource base. Would the minister stand in his place and tell us specifically what programs he has in mind now? We saw nothing about that in the budget. I would like to know exactly on what he will be spending research money. What specific projects will this entail, and what specific products will be generated?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Madam Speaker, I hope to be in a position to make specific announcements in these areas before too many weeks pass. I hope my hon. friend has checked his desire for greater spending with the new industry critic. I do not want to have any further intraparty conflicts on this score, because I am happy to have his support for the kinds of initiatives he is talking about.

**Mr. Gilchrist:** Madam Speaker, the only difference is that we do not consider that to be spending; that is investing in legitimate job creation.

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

**Mr. Gilchrist:** And that is quite different from spending on unemployment insurance. In the light of the badly sagging

economy, I would think the minister would be more attentive to that—

**An hon. Member:** Question.

**Mr. Gilchrist:**—and that after 14 years of government, he would have an industrial plan.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Paproski:** Listen and you will get the question.

**Mr. Gilchrist:** What is the minister's long-range strategy on which business can build and plan its long-range strategies for job creation and wealth generation in Canada?

**Mr. Lalonde:** It must be their stimulative deficit.

**Mr. Gray:** Madam Speaker, we will be making specific program announcements in the coming weeks. Our basic approach is to strengthen innovation in the country, to strengthen our export capacity and to build up our own domestic manufacturing base. I hope, too, to have the support of my hon. friend in a serious way for our initiatives as we bring them forward.

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**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE****INVESTIGATION OF ACTIVITIES OF NOVA SCOTIA MINISTER**

**Mr. Bob Rae (Broadview-Greenwood):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. It concerns the transaction between the minister for economic development in Nova Scotia, Mr. Roland Thornhill, and a number of chartered banks, about which, I believe, the minister is aware. I have given the minister notice of this question.

An RCMP investigation was completed in September of this year. Can the minister tell us whether the Inspector General of Banks has seen the RCMP report? If so, has the Inspector General made a report to the minister as to the contents of it?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, with respect to the hon. member's question, I would advise him that earlier in the year I had an inquiry by letter from an interested citizen in Nova Scotia asking whether there had been any investigation into, or concern expressed regarding, transactions between the bank and the particular minister in the province of Nova Scotia. The Inspector General of Banks advised me that an investigation did take place respecting any impropriety which might have been committed in connection with the provisions of the Bank Act. In pursuit of his investigations, he had sought interviews with officials in the relevant banks and had concluded that, in so far as the Bank Act was concerned, he could not find any impropriety. He made no comment with respect to any other law or convention which may or may not have been affected by this particular investigation.