

Oral Questions

consideration the definition of a Canadian enterprise under the car rental program. We opted to use a Canadian definition which is consistent with legislation that is on the statute books, such as the Foreign Investment Review Act, the Income Tax Act, the Bank Act and, indeed, the air carrier regulations wherein the enterprise being defined as Canadian is based upon ownership rather than a logo or trademark. I am sure the hon. member is not suggesting that we bar all franchise operators who possess a franchise that is foreign in nature.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deniger: The minister should realize the difference between individual and legal entities as well as the one between a definition applying to a general policy and another applying to a particular policy. Then could he tell the House and the Canadian people if he has received representations from Tilden and Holiday in this respect and if he intends to change his policy, which in our judgment is discriminatory for Canadian companies, and the program which is due to expire any day now?

[*English*]

Mr. Mazankowski: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have received representations from Tilden and Holiday. I received many representations from members on both sides of the House who take a different point of view. It might be interesting to note—and I am sure the hon. member knows this—the fact that Holiday operates a substantial amount of its business outside Canadian borders, and Tilden is connected with a couple of foreign firms which gives them an equal opportunity.

As the hon. member knows, this is a very difficult question. I have looked at it. I have received representations from both sides of the House. I think we have arrived at a definition which is consistent and which does, in fact, provide preferential treatment to Canadian operators.

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● (1430)

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

INQUIRY HOW INTERPROGRAM IS PROCEEDING

Mr. Rod Blaker (Lachine): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Supply and Services, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. He will not need to hide behind the upcoming budget, because a couple of months ago the government announced a program whereby several ministers will combine for the benefit of small business—his own department, DREE, as well as Supply and Services and Small Businesses. That program disposes, perhaps, of several billion dollars for the benefit of small businessmen. Could the hon. gentleman tell the House exactly how that interprogram, as it is called departmentally, is proceeding?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I think it is proceeding reasonably well. I must

[*Mr. Mazankowski.*]

tell the hon. member that unfortunately DREE does not control several billions of dollars; it is associated with other departments which collectively have approximately \$8 billion on the economic development side. We are hoping we can achieve something which has been difficult for his party to achieve up to this point, that is, increased co-operation between DREE and other line departments.

We are hoping to be in a position to make some announcements in the future which will indicate that we do, indeed, have a priority in the field of economic development and will be able to introduce new initiatives.

Mr. Blaker: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister is responsible for these DREE programs and similar programs of CMHC. With the upcoming referendum in Quebec, there is difficulty in that federal grants are somewhat hidden; they are not seen in the province as deriving from the federal government. What specific steps is the hon. gentleman taking, in the light of the coming referendum, to assure us that moneys spent in this fashion in the province of Quebec will be seen by the people of Quebec to be derived from the taxes of all Canadians?

Mr. MacKay: I can appreciate the hon. member's concern. His point is a valid one and it has been expressed not only by some of his hon. friends but by other members of this House as well. Apart from a reasonable public relations and advertising campaign, I can think of no measures which can be taken except to enlist the aid of all hon. members to tell their constituents fairly and honestly that a substantial contribution is being made by the federal government. But to spend a great deal of money in advertising, or to be unreasonably aggressive in claiming credit for some of these shared programs, might have an effect the reverse of what was intended.

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[*Translation*]

AGRICULTURE

INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER RECEIVED REPRESENTATIONS FROM QUEBEC FOR REDUCTION IN POULTRY IMPORTS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture.

On November 9, since the minister was not in the House, I asked a question of the Prime Minister regarding the agreement between Canada and the United States in relation to the importation of poultry from the United States. The Prime Minister answered then that he would consider the matter and discuss it with the responsible ministers. Could the Minister of Agriculture tell the House whether he has received, following that agreement, representations from the Quebec minister of agriculture and food expressing the discontent of poultry producers in the province of Quebec and also the intention of the provincial government to withdraw from the national agreement on the marketing of poultry meat in Canada.