

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Madam Speaker, I would ask the Minister, bearing in mind that it costs almost as much as the \$3,000 to get those footings into the ground, when will the Liberals stop adopting the policy that they will give to those who should get, on the basis that those who have got have to give back that which they got in order to get that which they got, such that that what they got was for nought?

[Translation]

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I shall check the exact translation of what the Hon. Member has just said. However, I must tell him that this program was designed to promote the construction of residential buildings and that we intend to maintain this policy.

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[English]

INDUSTRY AND LABOUR ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

APPLICATION TO FIRESTONE TIRE AND RUBBER COMPANY

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The Minister will recall that approximately one year ago the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development announced with great fanfare an ILAP grant for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. We have seen no results from that as yet, even though there was supposed to be money forthcoming. I understand that some problems are now developing. Can the Minister tell us how long it will be before the rationalization process that is to be undertaken can begin? How long will it be before the money will be made available?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, as I understand it, the Firestone Company has already undertaken some of the modernization program that we agreed to when my colleague, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, made the announcement.

We have extended the ILAP application because some of the wording of the agreement is still to be worked out with the company. We expect to resolve this within the next couple of weeks.

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ENERGY

MINISTER'S STATEMENT IN ALBERTA

Mr. John Thomson (Calgary South): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary to an earlier question asked by my colleague from Vegreville regarding the two so-called mega-projects in Alberta. As I read the report in the newspaper, the Minister was quoted as saying that these two projects in excess of \$100 million would be on stream before the end of the year.

Petitions

Is that what he said, that they would be on stream before the end of the year?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, I will be happy to provide the Hon. Member with a copy of the tape of that interview. No, I did not even mention those two specific projects at all.

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INCOME TAX

PROPOSED TAXATION OF NORTHERN BENEFITS

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Late last year he told us what his plans were for the taxation of certain northern benefits that had not been taxed before. This created quite a furor. He has received many representations in opposition to those proposals. Could he tell us now whether he has reconsidered these plans and whether he might change them in light of the representations, or preferably get rid of them altogether?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I did in fact announce last year measures concerning the taxation of northern benefits. This was done after consultations and meetings with many organizations and concerned groups. Obviously everyone would rather not pay taxes. However, if we want the country to work and if we want to have some equity in the sharing of responsibilities in Canada, there has to be a distribution of taxes. I announced a decision which will gradually eliminate the inequity of the present system and give some time to the workers involved to negotiate better working conditions with their employers taking into account the adjustment required by the announced tax changes.

I hope that the manner in which this program was announced will allow the workers involved to negotiate better working conditions with their employers and that Canadian taxpayers will no longer be required to finance these benefits to the advantage of employers.

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PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by two hon. members on Tuesday, March 15, 1983, meet the requirements of the Standing Order as to form.