

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REVIEW OF "URBAN PUBLIC TRANSIT"

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs I shall direct my question to his parliamentary secretary.

The External Information Programs Division of the Department of External Affairs recently put out a publication entitled "Urban Public Transport". The purpose of this publication is to inform other countries about the Canadian experience in public transport.

Unfortunately, when one looks through this publication, one finds that it does not reflect the Canadian reality, since it fails to give due recognition to developments in cities of the province of Quebec and does not contain the least reference to one of its most important firms, namely, Bombardier.

Can the parliamentary secretary tell the House what the department plans to do with this publication which, in my opinion, is incomplete?

Mr. Ron Irwin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, this publication has been under review, and I consider that it does not faithfully reflect the transport situation in Canada. We have therefore ordered that it be withdrawn.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

IMPACT OF HIGH INTEREST RATE POLICY ON FARMERS

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Huron-Bruce): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Earlier this afternoon my colleagues from Bruce-Grey and Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe gave the minister more than 1,700 letters from farmers in our area who have been trying to make him realize the terrific impact the government's high interest rate policy has on farmers. In view of the critical financial condition of these farmers today, will the minister give this House the assurance that his budget will address this problem and bring relief to them? As well, will the minister move up the date of his budget so that measures can be put in place before farmers are forced to sell their land in a depressed market or have to declare bankruptcy?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I have received those letters which were addressed to the Prime Minister. They were signed by individuals, but they are exactly the same in most cases, having been mimeographed or printed. That does not in any way detract from their importance, however. I might add that I answered those questions yesterday and the day before.

Oral Questions

With respect to the budget date, nothing has changed since yesterday.

Miss MacDonald: Wait until tomorrow. We will have a new date.

Mr. MacEachen: With respect to the hon. member's concern as to the impact of interest rates on the agricultural community, I have already indicated my concern and awareness of this problem and that I was addressing it in the context of budget preparations.

Mr. Cardiff: Madam Speaker, I would urge the minister to look at the notations on those letters. Many of them are important, and I would hate the minister to dismiss them lightly.

REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Huron-Bruce): Madam Speaker, what immediate remedies does the minister have to help farmers in these distressed situations until such time as he brings down his budget in this House? Some farmers are not in a position to last until then. What immediate measures does the minister have to offer?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I answered a similar question yesterday addressed to me by the hon. member for Oshawa.

● (1500)

Madam Speaker: Is the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) rising on business of the House?

Mr. Nielsen: I was, if the question period is over.

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Nielsen: I was going to rise to ask a supplementary question.

Madam Speaker: I think we will hear the hon. member for Yukon.

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INCOME TAX

REMISSION ORDER RESPECTING TAXATION OF NORTHERN BENEFITS

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Madam Speaker, my question is supplementary to that which was asked by the hon. member for Prince George-Peace River, and it is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Has he received any recommendation from any of the officials of his or any other government department that his remission order with respect to the taxation of northern benefits not be renewed beyond the existing taxation year?