

\$4.7 billion and to almost \$3 billion in the first three months this year, would the minister indicate what he anticipates will be the total foreign borrowing by Canadians in the coming year?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, this is the kind of anticipation that I think it is probably not useful for me to make in this House. I shall be glad, of course, to discuss the general question during the budget debate.

**Mr. Stevens:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of this extensive borrowing and the heavy debt charges that are now accruing of approximately \$400 million a year for future years, would the minister indicate whether he has contacted municipalities and provinces with a view to having them tone down their aggressive borrowing in foreign markets?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** No, Mr. Speaker. While we have encouraged provincial governments in the past to seek to place their securities in the Canadian market, for the moment at least that restraint has been lifted from them.

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### AGRICULTURE

#### DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW DAIRY POLICY

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. The minister previously indicated that by April 1 he would announce a dairy policy. When April 1 rolled around, all he said was "April fool, it will be on the following Thursday". Thursday has now come and gone. I wonder whether we can milk him for some sort of policy now since he seems to be dry. When is he due now?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure that all the bellowing over there is not going to bring about a milk program for this year any faster. I notice that no one has suggested that I put any more money into the program; they are all sitting quietly. I am amazed that there have not been more questions about this, Mr. Speaker.

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### ENERGY

#### GOVERNMENT POSITION ON ASSISTANCE TO NOVA SCOTIA WITH THE COST OF PRODUCING ELECTRICITY

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In light of the report that was given to the legislature of Nova Scotia by the finance minister of that province following the finance ministers' conference held last week, which so far as he was concerned was not in the least encouraging from the point of view of federal assistance in the production of energy, may I ask the minister whether he has any words of encouragement to give the people of Nova Scotia to the effect that the federal govern-

### Oral Questions

ment will assist in a tangible way so their electric power will not be cut off and people will not lose their homes through inability to pay light and power bills, as is happening at the present time?

● (1140)

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I understand the very serious problem facing some of these people. I do not think the question of whether their power is cut off is for the federal government, but I can say that the federal government is looking at the case that has been put by Nova Scotia. However, I think the clear answer is that I cannot hold out very much hope. Our resources are limited.

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### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### DATE OF COMPLETION OF COST-SHARING AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES FOR ALASKA HIGHWAY—AVAILABILITY OF COPY FOR YUKON LEGISLATURE

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the agreement been signed between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States with regard to the cost-sharing program for the highway from Haines in the state of Alaska to Haines Junction in the Yukon and from Haines Junction at the U.S. border? If the agreement has not been signed, when does the minister expect it will be signed and that construction will commence?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the agreement has not been signed. Discussions currently are going on with the government of British Columbia with regard to the right-of-way and the environmental questions. A good deal of progress has been made and I believe these discussions will be completed shortly.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for that reply. Is he aware that the Yukon legislative assembly has passed a resolution requesting a copy of the agreement when available, and can he inform the House when that agreement will be public and sent to the members of the assembly as requested.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I understand that consultations have been held with the Yukon and that the contents of the proposed agreement have been made known to their officials. We have not completed the agreement. When it is completed I will consider making it available to the members of the council, but normally such government agreements are not made public. In this case I will consider whether we can make an exception.