

Oral Questions

[Translation]

POSSIBILITY OF DECLARING TEMISCAMING SPECIAL AREA

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Is it the intention of the minister or his department to designate the town of Temiscaming as a "special area"?

[English]

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, this would be part of any proposal that we might be able to work out in order to assist this particular project. As the hon. member knows, it is quite complex from a variety of angles and this is what we are looking at now not only in consultation with Quebec; I hope also to talk with the promoters of the project.

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MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVE PROGRAMS—APPROVAL OF PROJECTS AND DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a short supplementary to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration in view of the enlightening statement he just made in regard to the \$50 million which apparently means some 50,000 jobs. Can the minister inform the House when he intends to have the balance of this money allocated? Can he give us some indication of when this money will be distributed?

• (1430)

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I could not give a precise date, but in all sincerity, it will be done just as quickly as it can be done wisely.

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COMMUNICATIONS

BELL CANADA RATE INCREASE APPLICATION—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

Mr. Terry Grier (Toronto-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Communications. In view of the concern about inflation and price increases expressed in the Speech from the Throne, will the Minister of Communications make a statement on motions concerning the government's attitude toward Bell Canada's imminent application for a rate increase?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I do not deem it necessary to make a statement on this subject at the moment. The hon. member knows that hearings before the Transport Commission have begun today or will in a day or two. Therefore, I do not think it would be appropriate to make a statement at this time. However, if it became clear that such a declaration were needed, I would not hesitate to do so.

[Mr. Jamieson.]

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Calgary North.

Mr. Grier: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member for Calgary North. Perhaps we might allow a supplementary to the hon. member for Toronto-Lakeshore.

Mr. Grier: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister assure the House that he will at least draw the attention of the Canadian Transport Commission to the fact that two of Bell's subsidiaries in the fiscal year 1971-72 received \$8.8 million in federal grants, according to the public accounts released today?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member will appreciate that that is a representation. The hon. member for Calgary North.

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

DATE OF CONFERENCE WITH WESTERN PROVINCES—AGENDA

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the date has been set for the proposed conference between the federal government and British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba and whether a statement will be made to the House as to the priorities that will be discussed in reference to the economic opportunities as mentioned in the Speech from the Throne at that western conference?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as to the date, none has been set. The announcement, of course, was only made last week in the Speech from the Throne and exchanges are now taking place between the provinces and myself to try to find a date and place for that conference as well as a proper agenda. On the second part of the question, the hon. member will see that in the Speech from the Throne itself several examples of things that we think should be discussed are given there.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, may I ask one supplementary following what the Prime Minister said. Is the Prime Minister considering discussing with the western provinces in particular that phase of the change in taxation under which the estate tax was abolished and replaced by a capital gains tax so that those provinces will share, as they did in the previous tax provisions, to the extent of 75 per cent of the national revenue?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, we will refuse to discuss no subject which is placed on the agenda by the provinces themselves. I would hope that at this particular conference we would especially consider items which have to do particularly with the economic development of the western provinces and not necessarily with subjects that are common to all provinces, or a multitude of provinces, and which can be discussed at other forums such as the finance ministers' meetings.