

## VETERANS AFFAIRS

### LANCASTER HOSPITAL—MAINTENANCE OF SERVICE AND STANDARDS

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs in connection with the Lancaster veterans hospital in New Brunswick. Can the minister give every assurance that there will not be a downgrading of service in this institution and that standards will remain at exactly the same level whether or not the final takeover comes about?

**Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, our paramount consideration is the good care of veterans. We will always try to do our utmost to make sure they get the best possible health care available at the hospital and in the area.

\* \* \*

## FINANCE

### SUGGESTED REDUCTION OF INTEREST RATES TO LOWER DOLLAR EXCHANGE LEVEL AND ENCOURAGE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question arising out of an earlier question to the Minister of Finance regarding the curbing of foreign borrowing. Since the minister is justifiably concerned about the loss of jobs that will accrue to Canada unless we reduce the exchange level of our dollar, is he considering the reduction of interest rates or urging that interest rates be reduced in order to bring down the value of the dollar and encourage employment opportunities in Canada?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, if my hon. friend takes a look he will find that short-term interest rates in Canada are lower than in the United States and our interest rates in the long term are very competitive with the United States.

**Mr. Saltsman:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's explanation and I should like to ask him whether he is considering reducing interest rates even further because of the enormous amount of unemployment in Canada?

### DISPROPORTIONATE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL COST OF BORROWING—COMPENSATION THROUGH FEDERAL BUDGET OR TAX CHANGES

**Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the government reciprocated with the provinces on foreign borrowings by assuring the provinces that any budget changes or tax amendments will compensate for the disproportionate costs of provincial and municipal debt financing compared with those of the federal government?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the question is very involved and I think I need to read it. I really could not understand what my hon. friend was getting at.

24081—50

## Yukon Minerals Act

**Mr. Ryan:** Would the minister take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker?

### INFLATION—PROPOSED INCREASE IN POSTAL RATES—GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Having in mind the minister's oft-repeated urgings that we try to do everything to combat inflation, is the Postmaster General reflecting government policy by indicating a further substantial increase in the basic postal rates?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member knows that the question cannot be asked in this way or in those terms. Orders of the day.

● (3:30 p.m.)

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### YUKON MINERALS ACT

#### ADMINISTRATION, ACQUISITION AND RECORDING OF CLAIMS, ETC.

The House resumed, from Friday, April 23, consideration of the motion of Mr. Chrétien that Bill C-187, respecting minerals in the Yukon Territory, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, at the conclusion of Friday's sitting I had elaborated at some length on the bureaucracy being set up by this government with respect to this act. I do not have very much more to say, except that I will continually ask for recognition of the legitimate demands of our native people. I would also impress upon the government, and particularly the minister responsible in this area, that the continual procrastination, bypassing and paternalistic attitude as well as undue complacency regarding our native people is not only an attitude which is morally wrong but one which exhibits a surprising unawareness on the part of government of a very specific situation vis-à-vis our native people. It seems to me that for some time the native people have not been brought into the decision-making process to any significant degree and, accordingly and I would say of necessity, they are left with the impression that they are not needed nor are their thoughts of any importance or consequence with respect to government decisions that may affect their lives.

I shall recap and reiterate, Mr. Speaker, the four main objectives that have been set forth at some great length by the member for the Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) and the member for Churchill (Mr. Simpson). The lack of judicial appeal, as far as this act is concerned, and the legislation by regulation seem to me and others on this side of the House to lead only to absolute control which will result in stifling the viability of economic prospects for the mining industry of the Yukon.