

Oral Questions

three years ago at the instigation of the minister responsible for the Wheat Board, and what plans has he to prevent that land from being used again for the growing of crops.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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FINANCE**SUGGESTED RELIEF FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PAID TAX ON BUILDING MATERIALS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. John Wise (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Finance. As the minister, fortunately, has now seen fit to provide relief from federal sales tax for taxpaid inventories of trucks and other transportation equipment, will he inform the House whether he intends to take the same action and provide relief for those who have paid sales tax on building materials.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker. I refer the hon. member to the special circumstances mentioned in my reply yesterday to the hon. member for Red Deer and elaborated in the press release that was issued following my answer in the House.

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IMMIGRATION**SUGGESTED INCENTIVES TO IMMIGRANTS TO GO TO ALBERTA IN VIEW OF LABOUR SHORTAGE—MINISTER'S POSITION**

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. As it is the department's policy to provide incentives for Francophone people to immigrate to Quebec, an area of high unemployment, is there not some special incentive applicable to the province of Alberta, where the unemployment rate at present is less than 2 per cent and where a serious labour shortage exists at present.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there are no special incentives for people to immigrate to Quebec, at least so far as the federal government is involved. As I explained to the House, we are working in co-operation with officials and departments of the government of Quebec to establish offices abroad. As for the recruitment of required workers to Alberta, I have discussed this thoroughly with Dr. Hohol, my counterpart in the government of Alberta and with people in industry in that province provided they are prepared to first try to recruit Canadians from Alberta and the western regions and nationally to Alberta and failing success, we will help them recruit from abroad. If they satisfy those certain conditions, including, where practical, willingness to train Canadians first, without success, we will certainly consider getting workers from abroad.

[Mr. Korchinski.]

INDUSTRY**STEEL—SUGGESTED INQUIRY INTO PRACTICE OF PRICE LEADERSHIP**

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that Judge Estey in his inquiry on steel profits was not permitted to examine the implications of the oligopolistic practice of price leadership by the Big Three, and since Judge Estey concludes, "This is a matter . . . of such complexity and importance to the industry and commerce of Canada generally as to require its own separate study . . .", will the minister now establish such an inquiry into price leadership?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated previously, Judge Estey's report is comprehensive. It speaks for itself and stands on its own.

STEEL—REASON FOR ACCEPTANCE BY JUDGE ESTEY OF LIFO SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTING

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, the minister has not answered my question about price leadership. May I ask another pertinent question. Can the minister explain why Judge Estey accepts the steel companies' inflation accounting system of LIFO, last in first out, in computing costs, whereas the Department of National Revenue and the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants have ruled that LIFO is not a proper accounting method?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I think that the report speaks for itself and stands on its own. I think Judge Estey clearly examined various accounting principles. He sought the best advice available and he put forward his views in the report.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE**FEED GRAIN—REQUEST IF SUPPLIES ARE ADEQUATE**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice being absent, I shall direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the reply the minister made yesterday that there is not enough feed grain in eastern Canada, due to the grain inspectors' strike, can he assure the House that domestic needs will be given priority, and that steps will be taken to prevent current grain stocks in eastern terminals from being exported, as long as the present situation has not been remedied?

Mr. Speaker: I must regretfully advise the hon. member that this is the third time this question has been asked today during the oral question period, and in exactly the same terms.