

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services):** The department does not have a mandate to finance projects.

[*Translation*]

**Madam Speaker:** Questions as enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

● (1510)

[*English*]

**Mr. McKenzie:** Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I would like to ask the parliamentary secretary what is causing the delay with starred question 876. It is with regard to funding for either railroad relocation or building overpasses in Winnipeg. The funding is causing considerable confusion in the province and in the House here. In particular we want to know where the funding is going to be coming from. It was announced last Friday, and there have been statements, that the funding will come out of DREE programs. All members of the House are very anxious to find out which DREE programs the funding will be obtained from, for the rail relocation and the building of the overpass in Winnipeg, so I would appreciate if the parliamentary secretary would make some inquiries with regard to starred question 876.

**Mr. Collenette:** I shall, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Shall the remaining questions stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

### BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT, 1980-81

#### SUPPLEMENTARY BORROWING AUTHORITY

The House resumed, from Monday, June 2, consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen that Bill C-30, to provide supplementary borrowing authority for the fiscal year 1980-81, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Madam Speaker, when the House adjourned last evening I was addressing some remarks to the parliamentary secretary, who had responded in a commendably detailed fashion to some requests for information emanating from this side of the House. I was at that time suggesting to hon. members opposite that, regardless of the amount of money that ultimately this House of Commons decided to allow the government to have in this or subsequent appropriation bills, it was time for a reappraisal of the priorities which would be given to these large amounts of money. I

### *Borrowing Authority Act*

believe I said that two of the priorities which I was urging upon this House were a greater emphasis on defence and a greater defence on economic development.

It seems to me that I also said at that point in my speech that there was no greater tribute to vulgar cost overruns and edifice complexes than the Bank of Canada building which is so near Parliament Hill and stands conspicuously among many of the other edifice complexes which have been built around the country, which may provide some satisfaction for the egos of the inmates, but does not do very much to assure the economic development of our country.

When one looks at the priorities and at the opportunities available to Canada, one sees very quickly how our rather precarious financial position reflects on our economic opportunities. I believe, although I am not certain, that a good example of this was illustrated recently when the President of Mexico came here and departed without leaving very much assurance that our country would be able to benefit very much from the Mexican oil that we had once hoped to get in larger amounts. I recall reading shortly thereafter that Japan was able to make a far more advantageous arrangement simply because there were funds available from that country, which is in far better shape economically, to invest in Mexico, and presumably they were able not only to improve their export position but also to get badly needed petroleum, something which we cannot do.

I suggest to hon. members of this House that federal priorities must change, regardless of the amount of money this House allocates to the government. Some departments are not paying enough attention to regional matters in their operations, and it is on this aspect of my speech that I would like to spend the last few moments available to me.

Some departments are not paying enough attention to regional matters. Some departments are almost anti-development, and I suggest that the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce is perhaps the worst of these. If I had more time I could deal with others such as the Department of Supply and Services. The anti-development departments, as I call them, have almost become DREEs in reverse. Some of the departments and agencies of our national government actually discriminate against the less developed parts of the country. This "kick them when they are down" mentality has created patterns in government purchasing, industrial development incentives, and export financing which discriminate in favour of the developed. At present DREE receives little more than 1 per cent of the federal budget.

Other federal departments and agencies control substantive funds which could be well used in a manner more consistent with regional development priorities. The present Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. De Bané) is well aware of this, and when he was minister of supply and services for a few months, as he pointed out recently, he did his best to try to correct the situation, and I trust that some of his cabinet colleagues will continue to work with him in this new administration to change what has been an impossible situation for DREE simply because that department does not have enough