

Questions

There are other things than wheat in Canada. I will admit that wheat is an important production, but the farmers who grow other crops should also be represented in the cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, those are supplementary matters which, to my mind, should be solved before the holidays. In any case, our group is ready to co-operate with the government in order to adopt as quickly as possible the required legislation. On the other hand, the government should submit to the house something definite and concise to promote the development, the growth if you will, of the whole Canadian economy.

[Text]

ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCES

FILMS—TABLING OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN FRANCE AND CANADA

[Translation]

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I ask for leave to table three copies in French and English of the agreement on relations between France and Canada concerning films.

[Text]

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT

AMENDMENT TO INCREASE QUORUM OF HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-103, to amend the British North America Act, 1867 to 1960, with respect to the quorum of the House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, this bill is based on the generally accepted notion, expressed the other day by the Secretary of State (Mr. Pickersgill), that the first duty of members of the House of Commons is to be here. The bill would increase the quorum of the House of Commons from the present ridiculously low figure of 20 members to a more reasonable figure of 50 members.

Mr. Churchill: We threw this out 10 years ago.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Mr. Yvon Dupuis (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the house that the following questions are being answered today: 1,172, 1,213, 1,314, 1,333, 1,339, 1,347, 1,348, 1,360, 1,367, 1,381, 1,391, 1,412, 1,414, 1,417, 1,439, 1,448, 1,451, 1,454, 1,455, 1,456, 1,469, 1,471, 1,477, 1,490, 1,491, 1,494, 1,497, 1,509, 1,513, 1,534, 1,535, 1,537, 1,539, 1,542, 1,543, 1,548, 1,555, 1,556 and 1,581.

[Mr. Caouette.]

[Text]

Mr. Speaker, if question 1,094 could be made an order for return the return will be tabled immediately. If Your Honour would be good enough to call starred questions Nos. 1,443, 1,446, 1,499 and 1,515 I would ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK LOANS OVER \$100,000

Question No. 1,172—Mr. Douglas:

1. Has the industrial development bank granted any loans of \$100,000 or over since January 1, 1958 and, if so, (a) to whom and in what amounts (b) in each case, who recommended the grant of the loans?

2. Since January 1, 1958, has any person not a member of the executive committee of the industrial development bank, or not a member of the board of directors of the industrial development bank, or not an official of the Bank of Canada, of the industrial development bank, of the Department of Finance or of the Department of Trade and Commerce, given any advice with regard to whether or not a loan should be granted and, if so, what are the names, addresses and occupations of all such persons, and what advice did they give with respect to each loan?

3. Has any consideration been given to changing the relationship that exists at present between the industrial development bank and the Bank of Canada and associating the industrial development bank more closely with the Department of Trade and Commerce and, if so, what are the details of such consideration?

Mr. Benson: 1. The number of new loans made by the industrial development bank in each of its five fiscal years ending September 30, 1958 to 1962, classified according to the size of the loan, is shown on pages 16 and 17 of the bank's annual report for the fiscal year 1962. The size classification shows separately loans over \$100,000 to \$200,000, and loans over \$200,000. In these five fiscal years as a whole the number of loans made over \$100,000 was 532, and the total number of loans made was 5,360. In the fiscal year 1962 the numbers were 162 and 2,085 respectively.

It is contrary to public policy to reveal information regarding individual loans.

2. Yes. The bank secures information concerning potential loans and receives representations on them from a variety of sources, including the interested parties, but it is not considered desirable, in the public interest, to reveal from whom such information or representations are secured or received, or what the content of them is. In any event, records are not maintained that would enable the question to be answered.

3. Any important change in relationship such as that outlined would be a matter of government policy and would of course be announced as such.