

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that I understand the purport of the question. If my hon. friend is asking that I abolish the general sales tax in Canada, I may say that it is not our intention to do so.

PRAIRIE GRAIN STABILIZATION PLAN—REPAYMENT OF CASH ADVANCES FROM TRANSITIONAL PAYMENTS

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. Does the minister intend to force farmers to pay back outstanding cash advances from the \$100 million payment which is to be made and which he announced last week?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, it might be ordinary practice to require any defaults to be taken into consideration, but certainly ordinary, outstanding indebtedness under cash advances will not be offset against the payments.

* * *

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

RENEGOTIATION OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN BY FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Is he now in a position to answer the question I asked last Thursday, which the Prime Minister took as notice on his behalf, regarding any request from the government of Prince Edward Island to renegotiate the comprehensive development plan operating in that province in light of the very high level of unemployment existing there which is now, I believe, above 13 per cent?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the program concerning Prince Edward Island is under constant review to keep up with new developments. We are always in touch with that government and after all it is rather encouraging to see that this year the unemployment rate is lower in Prince Edward Island in spite of the situation in Canada in general.

[English]

[Later:]

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question that is supplementary to the original question. I think, first of all, that the minister's information is wrong. Unemployment is higher—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has the floor for just a few seconds. We are fast reaching the end of the question period.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): In view of the clearly stated implications that the plan would be renegotiated shortly, as agreed when the plan was originally signed, may I ask what provision the minister is making for public submis-

[Mr. Korchinski.]

sions from the people of Prince Edward Island with respect to the effectiveness of the plan and possible alterations in it?

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I do not know if both governments have agreed to hear the parties concerned. I will inquire about it. As for myself, I have no objection.

[English]

REPORT OF ATLANTIC ADVISORY COUNCIL ON OPERATION OF ACT

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since unemployment in one province is substantially higher, can the minister say if he has received the report of the Atlantic Advisory Council and its review of the Regional Development Incentives Act which was intended to try to upgrade the effectiveness of that Act in one province in eastern Canada? If not, can he say when we will receive the report?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I think that the department has received this report which is now under consideration. As soon as we are in a position to draw conclusions, we will inform the House accordingly.

* * *

[English]

INDUSTRY

INQUIRY AS TO STATEMENT ON CANADIAN PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION PROPOSALS—ASSISTANCE TO PUBLISHERS OF SCHOLARLY AND ARTISTIC WORKS

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. May I ask if he has had time to consider the proposals put before him by the Canadian Publishing Association on March 2? If so, when may we expect a statement in the House about proposed government action relating to those recommendations?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I can only answer that the conclusions drawn from those consultations are still under consideration, but I cannot say when a statement will be made on motions.

[English]

Mr. Rowland: Has the minister requested the Humanities Research Council and the Canada Council to consider ways and means of assisting the publishers of scholarly and artistic works in Canada, and enhancing that assistance?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, both councils took part in our consultations with the publishers, so they are perfectly aware of both updated requirements and available resources.