

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I think two comments might be made. The CDC in its decision-making is, of course independent of the government in terms of its investment. My recollection is that the chairman and president of that corporation indicated the CDC would prefer to invest in a resource area where it can get a control position rather than taking a minority interest.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS****REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE DRINKING WATER FREE OF  
CANCER PRODUCING SUBSTANCES**

**Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of the Environment. In view of recent concern in the United States about potential cancer producing substances in the drinking water, a concern which has led to major tests of the drinking water supply in New Orleans and now in Massachusetts, and in view of allegations that similar substances may be present in Canadian drinking water supplies, particularly the Ottawa River, the very water which is distributed under the jurisdiction of Mr. Speaker, is the minister prepared to assure the Canadian people that similar tests are being taken in Canada? If not, can the minister assure Canadians that tests will be initiated or that their drinking water is completely safe?

**Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. There has been some step-up in the tests of drinking water to ascertain whether the chlorine content is in any way comparable to the chlorine content found in those regions of the Mississippi which, as the hon. member knows, is very high. This is being followed very closely by all experts who are concerned with this. One must not panic about this question however. The hypothesis which has been raised with regard to the Mississippi is based on levels of chlorine which are many, many times greater than those found in our waters or, as far as that goes, in the Mississippi itself.

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**INDIAN AFFAIRS****REPORT OF CALGARY GROUP ALLEGING MISTREATMENT OF  
NATIVES—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION**

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It concerns the release on December 13 of a report by a group of social agencies in the city of Calgary, accusing the office of the Department of Indian Affairs in that city of practicing racism and violating standards of professional social work in its treatment of native people. Would the minister arrange for an independent inquiry into these allegations so that such discrimination, if it exists, can be fully documented and brought to an end?

[Mr. Gillies.]

● (1520)

**Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** It is my understanding that this report was prepared by the Calgary chapter of the Canadian Association of Social Workers. The national office does not have a copy but they are endeavouring to secure one and have undertaken to provide us with it. I would prefer to see that document before commenting.

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**INDUSTRY****LUMBER—GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO AID INDUSTRY**

**Mr. Frank Oberle (Prince George-Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. On November 19 he responded to a question regarding the depressed state of the forest industry. The minister said discussions were going on among various departments and that he would have an answer within one week. On Thursday, the parliamentary secretary took note of my further inquiry. Is the minister in a position today to give us an idea what action the government proposes to take?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** I referred to precisely this point in the course of my remarks during the budget debate and I would direct the hon. member's attention to what I said on that occasion. In effect, I listed a number of measures which the government has taken, many of which were included in the budget itself.

**Mr. Oberle:** Is the minister now telling us that the government is not prepared to take any further action, such as amending the Bank Act so as to allow section 88 financing for some of these companies which are obviously going bankrupt?

**Mr. Gillespie:** We are doing all we can to help the industry find new markets.

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**AGRICULTURE****REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN SUPPORT PRICE FOR SLAUGHTER  
COWS—POSSIBLE INQUIRY INTO BEEF PRODUCTION**

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the very modest Minister of Agriculture. In view of the announcement of Friday that the government will provide a support price of 23.2 cents per pound for slaughter cows, based on the past five-year average, and in light of the fact that this fails to reflect the current rapid increase in the input cost of cattle, I would like to ask the minister whether he would reconsider the floor price with a view to adjusting it upward to reflect more appropriately current input costs?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the price we now pay for cows from both beef and dairy herds is one that we think is realistic and was decided upon after making many inquiries in the industry