

Member refers is not yet law. However, as I attempted to indicate in my response to the Hon. Member's first question, I made an announcement concerning lowering of FCC interest rates.

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SHIPBUILDING

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TERMINATION DATE

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry and pertains to the expiration of the Shipbuilding Industry Assistance Program, which is to come about on June 30, 1985. During the election the Conservatives promised the shipbuilding industry would receive top priority from their Government. Is the Minister prepared to co-operate with the Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Association and major shipbuilders by extending that program for at least two years through to June 30, 1987?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, this matter is under review. I assure the Hon. Member that we are giving it a top priority. In fact my officials and myself have met with representatives of the shipbuilding industry, and I can assure the Hon. Member that we will continue to give it a priority with a view to working out a long-term satisfactory arrangement for the shipbuilders of this country.

EFFECT ON VESSEL CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, the Minister is of course aware that this industry is going through the worst recession since World War II, with an enormous loss of employment. There is currently a builder operating in the—

Mr. Speaker: With great respect.

Mr. Skelly: Is the Minister aware that a vessel to be built in Vancouver if the SIAP Program is continued will be built in Korea if he does not make an announcement very soon on this matter?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the vessel to which the Hon. Member refers. That has, of course, been reviewed during some of the discussions we have had with the industry.

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EXTERNAL AID

CHARITABLE DONATION FOR MISSIONARIES IN ETHIOPIA

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister acting for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I would like to bring to his attention the fact that late last month arrangements were made for a donation amounting to \$82,000, from Mr. Juthani of Sarnia,

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Ontario, to be given to the Missionaries of Charity headed by Mother Theresa in Addis Ababa. The money is currently in a trust fund in Addis Ababa and the arrangements were for the Canadian ambassador to make the donation at the embassy. My question is—leaving some out—could the Minister tell me the status of this donation? If it has not yet been given to Mother Theresa, when will the arrangements be made by the ambassador?

Hon. Jim Kelleher (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the Hon. Member's concern emanating from his constituency. I am advised that the Department is presently endeavouring to get the money to Mother Theresa, and is doing all it can to expedite the transfer of this money.

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[Translation]

THE CENSUS

USEFULNESS OF DETAILED DATA ON ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF POPULATION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Supply and Services.

In his answer of December 6, 1984, the Minister stated that he had administrative records through which he could gather the data necessary to satisfy government requirements. Since questions 7 and 27 of the 1986 census for the first time concern natives and disability, can the Minister indicate precisely where the administrative records he referred to originated from, as far as natives and disability are concerned?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I believe I indicated that Statistics Canada has a wide variety of data gathering methods. The census is one, and that will be held at least every ten years for sure. There are statistical surveys, administrative data, and a whole host of other means by which Statistics Canada can gather the necessary information. I want to assure the Hon. Member that Statistics Canada will provide the necessary data so that these important policy questions can be addressed, based on the most accurate data possible regarding the question the Hon. Member raised.

● (1440)

REQUEST THAT 1986 CENSUS BE REINSTATED

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, in the past the Minister promised that the cancellation of the census would be reviewed. In view of the fact that a number of Statistics Canada employees assigned to the census will be transferred January 1, only a few days away, why does the Minister not now admit that the cancellation of the census was a mistake? Why can't he and the Minister of Finance immediately withdraw, and reinstate the 1986 census?