

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I will inquire of the Minister of Communications.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Could the Prime Minister also tell us whether the government has undertaken any studies as to the effect of higher interest rates on the cost of electricity and power development in Canada and would he also make the results of such studies available to the House at the same time?

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● (1510)

### CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

#### ALLEGED FAILURE OF CORPORATION TO COMPLY WITH LEGISLATION—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the fact that after six years the Cape Breton Development Corporation has failed to comply with legislation passed by this House and supported unanimously by two parliamentary committees, would the minister take steps to instruct Tom Kent, president of that corporation, to comply with the legislation immediately as laid down in section 18(a)(2) of the act?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member and others know, I have consistently over the past several months done everything I possibly could to redress what the hon. member regards as certain legitimate grievances, and I think considerable progress has been made. If the hon. member has some alternative means that might be employed to pursue this matter further, as he knows I will be glad to consider them with him or with any other member.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** A supplementary question. I know that the minister has shown great concern and has made the only advance that has been made, but Tom Kent has restricted advancement. The minister has overcome some of it, but does the minister intend to stand pat and allow Tom Kent to deny widows covered under section 18(a)(2) what has been rightly voted to them by the parliament of Canada in 1967? Six years is too long to wait. As I have said in the House, Tom Kent can be charged under the Criminal Code for not complying with the legislation passed by the House. The minister can take action with respect to Kent or action with respect to the legislation; either will satisfy me up to a point.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

### Oral Questions EXHIBITIONS

#### EXPO '74, SPOKANE, WASHINGTON—EXTENT OF FEDERAL PARTICIPATION—CONSULTATION ON POSSIBLE PROVINCIAL PARTICIPATION

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the government's announcement at the end of July that Canada was withdrawing from any participation in Expo '74 in Spokane, and in view of the welcome news today that the federal government has reversed its position and will now participate in Expo '74, I would ask the minister on what basis and to what extent the federal government's participation in Expo '74 will be made?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, when the government made its original decision not to build a pavilion, one of the reasons was lack of interest on the part of British Columbia and Alberta. The British Columbia government has changed its position and the Canadian government is going to build a park. I am hopeful that the government of British Columbia will build a pavilion within the park, thus I think fulfilling what is desirable from all points of view.

**Mr. Harding:** Has the federal government retained the site originally set aside for the Canadian exhibit, and has the government held talks with any of the provinces regarding the sharing of this site with them for the purpose of provincial exhibits? If so, with what provinces have discussions been held?

**Mr. Sharp:** As I said in my original answer, Mr. Speaker, the province of British Columbia reversed its position on participation as a result of which the government wanted to facilitate some Canadian and British Columbia participation. We have extended a similar invitation to Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba to participate if they would like to come on the same site. I might add that I understand the authorities in Spokane may create a permanent park, which would be a great credit for Canada.

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[Translation]

### AGRICULTURE

#### SMALL FARM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Owing to the serious conditions in the food production field and the urgency of using all our arable land, could the minister tell us what progress is being made in the negotiations with the Quebec government concerning the small farm development program and will he soon be making a statement in the House in this connection?

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, we have had an exchange of correspondence on negotiations in the last week. I think the earlier announce-