

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION OF FULL EMPLOYMENT POLICIES—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, whom I welcome back to the House after his visit to the invigorating shores of Nova Scotia. Is the minister now prepared to make a recommendation to the government in keeping with the main recommendation of the report of the Atlantic Development Council whereby they recommended that full employment policies must be pursued by the government of Canada in order to make regional development policies effective in the Atlantic area? Is the minister prepared to make that recommendation to his colleagues in the government?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I stated after the report was transmitted to me that the next step will be to study all the recommendations with the chairman of the council. After that I will report to the cabinet. I will then be in a position to announce any new policies.

Mr. McGrath: A supplementary question. When can we expect the report to be studied by the cabinet, because it is a very important report, affecting as it does the ten-year plan for the Atlantic provinces?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING NEW AGREEMENT WITH QUEBEC**

Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Could he tell the House whether negotiations are under way with the province of Quebec as to the signing of a new Canada-Quebec co-operation agreement for the economic development of the Lower St. Lawrence region, the Gaspé peninsula and the Magdalen Islands?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Yes, Mr. Speaker, that agreement should be signed at any time now.

[English]

ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION RESPECTING MEETINGS WITH PROVINCIAL PREMIERS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): My supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and concerns the recommendation which urges the government to enter into meaningful negotiation with the four Atlantic Premiers. Will the hon. gentleman pay special attention to the

[Mr. Pelletier.]

recommendation which calls on him to meet quarterly with the four Atlantic premiers?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I do not know whether we shall meet quarterly but we shall try to have at least one meeting. I think the recommendation of the council to which the hon. member has referred is an important one.

ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION RESPECTING TARIFF STRUCTURE

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): In light of the recommendation of the Atlantic Development Council, a constituent part of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, that the tariff structure be reassessed with a view to accommodating more equitably the regions of Canada experiencing disparity, is the minister prepared to discuss this idea formally with the government of the Atlantic provinces?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I think the first discussion should take place with the chairman. Then I would make a report to the cabinet and after that, if necessary, enter into negotiations with the provinces.

[Translation]

GRANTS FOR GASPÉ ROADBUILDING

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Matane): I should like to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

I wonder if before asking my supplementary the Chair would kindly allow me a question of privilege before adjournment—

Mr. Speaker: Indeed, the hon. member can always rise on a question of privilege. It might be better if the hon. member waited until the end of the question period, although he is entitled, under Standing Orders, to do so right now. Nevertheless I suggest he should wait until the end of the oral question period and ask his supplementary question now.

Mr. De Bané: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion whether the agreement soon to be signed with the province of Quebec will provide for a substantial grant intended for the Gaspé road network?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

PRAIRIE PROVINCES—SIMILAR STUDY TO THAT DONE BY ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): My supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Having regard to the apparent importance of the ADC report on Atlantic development, does the gov-