

*Oral Questions*

change is probably the most reactionary member I know. Every time someone talks of change in Canada, he goes wild. What is happening in Newfoundland is simply the fact that since the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation a number of changes have taken place, and one of those changes has been the construction of highways in Newfoundland. Therefore, in the Avalon Peninsula and the Burin Peninsula—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I must ask the hon. minister if he could be shorter in his replies. Nearly every time he rises I am tempted to call him back to order.

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**SMALL BUSINESS**

## PROCESSING OF DEVELOPMENT BOND APPLICATIONS

**Mr. Lorne Greenaway (Cariboo-Chilcotin):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. It concerns the Small Business Development Bond program. As the minister probably realizes, currently there are many applications for these bonds and they cannot be processed before December 31, after which time one has to be in dire straits to be an applicant. In my province of British Columbia, for instance, there are 80 applications being processed by one legal firm for one bank alone. There is no way they can get these through by the end of the month. If a person who wants a Small Business Development Bond can obtain a written commitment from his chartered bank before December 31, would the minister assure us that he would allow this application to go through while it catches up to the documentation?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I regret that I did not hear the beginning of the hon. member's question. However, I believe that the circumstances to which he referred in his question were dealt with by me several days ago in the House with respect to the Small Business Development Bond and arrangements that had been made prior to the budget to permit them to be validated before the end of the year.

## CRITERIA GOVERNING APPLICATIONS

**Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance and it concerns the changes to the Small Business Development Bond. The minister will know that changes have been made in the criteria to allow unincorporated businesses and firms which are in financial difficulty to apply for the bond. It is my understanding that the banks are not in a position to make those loans because there have been no instructions from the department. Will the minister speed up the guidelines set by his department so that the banks will be in a position to assist those people whom the budget was intended to assist?

● (1130)

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, the same question has

been raised and, as I stated earlier, my department has had a meeting with the chartered banks. At the present time all the regulations have been clarified, and there is no justification for any delay arising from an alleged uncertainty as to what the changes mean. I take the view that there is no reason at the present time that derives from the government why these bonds cannot be processed.

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**AGRICULTURE**

## REQUEST THAT MINISTER MEET LIVESTOCK FARM LEADERS

**Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. The question is with respect to a recent public statement the minister made at New Liskeard, Ontario, at an Ontario Federation of Agriculture local meeting. It was a very extreme, abrasive, and totally uncalled for remark, and it was about "gutless" farm leaders, with the clear implication that he was referring to the livestock industry, and especially the cattle industry.

In view of the minister's cancellation of a meeting last December 9 with the livestock farm leaders to discuss national stabilization, I would like to ask the minister if he would now reconvene such a meeting and sit down and discuss harmonized national stabilization under the legislation of which he is aware, and include not only cattle producers but the cattle provinces as well.

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member talks about those farm leaders about whom I was talking, and I challenge him and anyone else who has led those people down that path to ruination and bankruptcy to accept their responsibility for doing it.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Whelan:** Hon. members opposite sound very guilty to me, guilty of the misdemeanour of advising producers on how to use an old-fashioned marketing system that is so outdated we are using it for hardly anything else in our society. Instead of just criticizing the government I say to those farm leaders that they should offer some constructive suggestions. They have not done that kind of thing. Some farm leaders have, and some have not. The farm leaders who have and the people who follow them are the ones who are not going bankrupt, as far as that goes.

The hon. member talks about meeting beef farmers, I have met more beef cattle farmers in the last six months than any other politician in this whole country. The date they set was an inconvenient date for me; I will meet with them any time they want. I met with cattlemen in Alberta on Monday of this week.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!