

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

CHURCHILL RIVER DIVERSION—GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS
WITH REGARD TO LEGAL ACTION AND FUNDING OF FLOOD
COMMITTEE

Mr. Dean Whiteway (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It has to do with his statement several months ago which was interpreted by the Province of Manitoba as a threat. The statement related to the Churchill River diversion in that province. Does the minister intend to proceed with legal action, as trustee of Indian lands in that province? Why does he continue to fund a northern flood committee which has no status to take legal action on its own behalf?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): The question of an injunction was an option which was being examined. However, because of engineering difficulties, the diversion was delayed for a year and the urgency was taken out of the matter. The situation now is that the northern flood committee has, by band council resolution, authority to act on behalf of the bands involved. We are, therefore, working with them. We expect we shall shortly be appointing a mediator who will be working with the provincial government, the northern flood committee and ourselves to resolve the problem.

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URBAN AFFAIRS

HABITAT 76—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE CONFERENCE WILL
BE HELD

Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Comox-Alberni): A question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, Mr. Speaker. Having regard to the ten to one vote by the Vancouver City Council last night not to host Habitat 76, can the minister assure the House that the Government of Canada will proceed with the conference and will assist the City of Vancouver in taking the security measures required to ensure a positive atmosphere for this most important UN conference?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The government intends to continue the momentum of preparations to carry out the Habitat Conference and make it one of the most successful conferences ever held under the auspices of the United Nations. We are now making adequate security arrangements and discussions are under way with the City of Vancouver. I have spoken personally to the Mayor, and the Secretary-General is now in touch with the Council to determine the parameters of any concerns they may have and give whatever support he can to make sure the event is held in a proper atmosphere.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

● (1430)

AGRICULTURE

MARKETING BOARDS—POSITION OF MINISTER ON
APPLICABILITY OF ANTI-INFLATION GUIDELINES—CRITERIA
TO BE USED IN SETTING PRICES

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to, I suspect, the only friend of the farmers and marketing boards in the whole cabinet, the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the government's policy that farmers and fishermen are exempt from the guidelines under the anti-inflation program, and in view of the fact that a government document says that these boards will have to be reviewed before reaching firm decisions on which ones should be subject to the guidelines and which of their costs should be allowable, may I ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he can tell the House if it is still the position of the government that they are exempt from the guidelines; can the minister explain how that statement is compatible with the willingness of the Anti-Inflation Board to make scapegoats of the marketing boards, ignoring wholesalers, processors and packagers; and does the minister intend to see that the farmers and fishermen remain exempt under the guidelines?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, let me say again that some editorial writers have been grossly inaccurate about how marketing boards operate. For example, today's *Globe and Mail* editorial is just a bunch of trash as far as I am concerned. It could not do more to inflame the public. There is nothing that a well run marketing board has to fear from the Anti-Inflation Board, or from anyone else, as far as I am concerned. They are under strict guidelines, just as strict as the guidelines that are going to apply to industry and labour.

Mr. Benjamin: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Minister of Agriculture's statement about the *Globe and Mail* and others that have made stupid statements about marketing boards, but in view of the fact that his own government officials have said that they are exempt, and then in another paragraph they say it is to be decided which of the marketing boards will be included under the guidelines, and that this proposal is being put forward to the provinces today, I ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he can tell the House if the criteria for the pass through of the costs of production presently being used by CEMA or by marketing boards operated by the provinces will be used by the Anti-Inflation Board or the Farm Products Marketing Council, or will the criteria of the Minister of Transport under the grain stabilization bill or the criteria of Mrs. Plumptre be used?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, the form of pricing used by marketing boards is public information available for scrutiny by anyone who wants to study it realistically. We have nothing to fear from any marketing board. They are under really strict guidelines now, stricter than those for industry, and we do not have to worry about their being under the Anti-Inflation Board. The vast majority of ministers that we have talked to about this have said the same thing of provincial marketing boards that have anything to do with price setting.