

*Income Tax Act***GRAIN****CORN—INQUIRY AS TO ANNOUNCEMENT ON
CONSTRUCTION OF STORAGE FACILITIES**

Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the very high levels of unemployment and the serious threat of further massive lay-offs this winter in Shawinigan, Trois-Rivières and other communities in that part of Quebec, what steps is the government taking to alleviate this situation so that these people will not have to leave their homes in order to try to find employment?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the government announced not long ago certain measures to increase the employment level. I further believe that a distinction should after all, be made between the general policy of the government in the economic field and the activity of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, which, of course, can be affected by the general policy, but which has so far been very effective.

[English]

[Later:]

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON ALLEGATIONS BY
QUEBEC FEDERATION OF LABOUR CONCERNING USE OF
DEPARTMENTAL FUNDS**

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the one asked by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. In view of the revelations made by the Quebec Federation of Labour that the industrial development strategy of the department channels public funds away from the most depressed areas, among a number of other charges, would the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion be willing to make a statement on motions at the earliest possible date dealing with the various points that have been raised?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the report of the Quebec Federation of Labour, in this regard, is at best political propaganda because it has no founding, either at the economic level or as concerns the carrying out of our programs.

[English]

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF ANALYSIS OF PROJECTS

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister consider tabling his own or the department's analysis of the impact of these projects so that we might give them adequate consideration?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langlier): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member wanted to do his duty he could see every month that the funds of the department are expended in underdeveloped areas, and not in the big cities.

[English]

Mr. Burton: A question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Regina East is rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Burton: Mr. Speaker, I have read every monthly report the minister has published and they fail to shed one ray of light on what the department is doing.

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that time is so important and representations have been made to the government regarding increased write-offs on construction of storage space for grain, particularly corn, would the minister say when an announcement can be expected in this regard?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the exact date that an announcement will be made, but I can tell the hon. member that we are working on the matter very actively and that I hope it will be soon.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

• (3:30 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**INCOME TAX ACT**

The House resumed, from Friday, December 10, consideration of the motion of Mr. Benson for the third reading of Bill C-259, to amend the Income Tax Act and to make certain provisions and alterations in the statute law related to or consequential upon the amendments to that act, and the amendment of Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West) (p. 10363) and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Burton (p. 10370).

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I was sorry not to be in the House on Friday when the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) spoke on the third reading of the tax bill.

Mr. Mahoney: Where were you?

Mr. Ricard: None of your business.

Mr. Stanfield: I am happy to see hon. members opposite taking a great interest in my whereabouts; that is very encouraging. I understand that I missed an interesting performance in this House. At least one commentator, whose report I read over the weekend, accused the Minister of Finance of indulging in a certain amount of bullying. With all due respect, I would disagree with that commentator having now read the minister's speech. The minister may have felt that he was being tough and ruthless but, after all, if you are going to be that you must have something more going for you than just a parliamentary majority. You have to have some arguments as well; you must have at least a little logic on your side. If you do not have that on your side, then all the bluster in the world will not help you very much.

This is why, being as charitable as I can, I would describe the minister's performance really as an exercise in desperation. He spent, of course, very little time praising the bill, and I do not criticize him for that.