

say whether the manpower managers have been commissioned, either by his office or by Information Canada, to act under direction as propaganda agents for the government, and have they been specifically instructed to point out the multiple manpower programs to balance public opinion in this period of high unemployment?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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FINANCE

SUGGESTED REPEGGING OF CANADIAN DOLLAR TO ASSIST EXPORTERS

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Finance tell the House whether we can expect an early decision with regard to repegging the Canadian dollar because of the increasing number of major Canadian concerns engaged in the export program which are reporting losses and having to lay off hundreds of people as the result of loss of contracts caused by the increase in the value of the Canadian dollar on the international market?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows very well that I could not give any indication of this in the House at the present time.

While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, I may have misled the House—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: Another?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Hillsborough.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister rises on a question of privilege. Before I recognize the minister, perhaps he noticed that I recognized another hon. member when he suggested that he should take advantage of the fact he had the floor to answer another question. We have tried to get away from that practice in the past. It might be better if we returned to the minister in due course to allow him to answer the question, but for the moment I gather he has a question of privilege and the Chair will hear him.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I was trying to avoid raising a special question of privilege, but I would like to point out that there were several questions asked this week about the Canada Development Corporation by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the minister indicate what the question of privilege is?

Mr. Hees: There is no question of privilege.

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I should simply like to say, in answer to one of those questions—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the minister that that is precisely what he cannot do at this moment. I appreciate that the minister may want to reply to the question, and he should be given that opportunity, but it is better for the orderly conduct of the question period that the minister should reply later to the question asked previously, as he has indicated he wishes to do. He will be recognized in due course.

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BILINGUALISM

USE OF CONCEALED TAPE RECORDER IN INTERVIEWING AIR CANADA EMPLOYEE

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister which concerns the taping by an official representing the language commissioner of conversations with Air Canada clerks without the knowledge of the said clerks. Can the minister assure us that henceforth no employees or officials of the government of Canada, public commissions or corporations will perpetrate upon the people of Canada such sneaky, snoopery Orwellian intrusions?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that the question is in a form which is very difficult for the Chair to accept. The Chair will recognize the Minister of Finance.

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CANADA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ACQUISITION OF CROWN CORPORATIONS

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if I had had an opportunity to answer the question earlier not so much time would have been taken. I simply want to say that in answering the question raised by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands I said that if it were decided to turn over certain Crown corporations to the Canadian Development Corporation the government would have to come to the House and ask for permission to do so. Actually, section 39 of the CDC bill, which has had first reading, takes care of that matter. If parliament approved that section, the government would have the right to negotiate the sale of these enterprises to the CDC. I thought that was an important point that should be corrected.

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PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

PARTICIPATION BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN FORMATION OF MARITIMES COUNCIL OF PREMIERS

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the progress made at yesterday's meeting of the three Maritimes premiers, in view of their intention to form a Maritimes council of premiers and establish a secretariat, and in view of the additional costs that these projects