

role in the export of nuclear fuel and technology, would the Acting Prime Minister be prepared, with unanimous consent, to table a copy of the cabinet's policy guidelines at this time rather than waiting until next week to make a statement on this very important matter?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think I can accept the suggestion of the hon. member. There will be no secret about the rules we are applying, and I am hopeful they can be made public at an appropriate time. Perhaps I should point out to the hon. lady and other hon. members that there is a very serious dilemma involved for Canada. At the present time, there is a shortage of energy in the world and I do not think it would be in the best interests of mankind for us to deny, particularly to developing countries of the world, the opportunity of increasing their energy supplies by denying them either our technology or our uranium. I believe what we should be doing is trying to insist upon safeguards that will do everything possible to avoid either our equipment, our technology or our resources being used for purposes of destruction.

**Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Acting Prime Minister for his answer but to ask if he can give us a specific date when the statement will be made, and also to say if the current visit of the Prime Minister of Iran to Canada and his comments about Candu reactors had any bearing on the speed or substance of cabinet decision on this matter?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, we knew about the interest of Iran, and I cannot deny that this did expedite our consideration. This was not the only application we had before us however, and I think it was desirable that we should settle upon the safeguards we considered desirable. In that sense, perhaps the Prime Minister of Iran did have some effect upon the priority we gave to this matter in cabinet.

#### REQUEST FOR ADVANCE COPY OF STATEMENT ON GUIDELINES FOR EXPORT OF NUCLEAR FUEL AND REACTORS

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the Acting Prime Minister say if the statement on this matter will be made to the House on motions, and in view of its great importance could the substance of the statement be conveyed to the different parties in the House so that they may have time to study it before being required to comment on it?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have great sympathy with this suggestion.

#### PROPOSED ENRICHED URANIUM PLANT IN QUEBEC—DATE OF GOVERNMENT DECISION

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Acting Prime Minister a supplementary question. Has the government made any decision with reference to allowing a French company to establish a uranium enrichment plant in the province of Quebec and if so, what decision has been reached? If no

#### Oral Questions

decision has been reached how soon does the government intend to acquaint the House with this decision?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to answer this question because I am not absolutely sure about the state of play so I will pass it on to my colleague.

\* \* \*

#### AGRICULTURE

##### SMALL FARM LOAN PROGRAMS—SUGGESTED AMENDMENT TO PERMIT THOSE WITHOUT ASSETS TO OBTAIN LOANS

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question and I do not know whether it should be directed to the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Finance, but I will direct it to the Minister of Agriculture at this time. Has any consideration been given by the government to introducing certain amendments to the small farm improvement plan whereby certain grants are available from the federal government to the purchaser when an addition is made to existing land which a small farmer holds, so that young farmers just starting out who do not hold any possessions might also fit into the plan, thus assisting young farmers to get started?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, we have an advisory committee on this made up of people from every province where they are using the small farm loan program. I am not aware that this has been suggested but I will bring it to their attention. If the hon. member will give me his idea in more detail and in writing, I will be glad to look at it.

\* \* \*

#### PUBLIC WORKS

##### ALLEGED INCREASE IN EXPENDITURES—GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO CONTROL

**Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Public Works. Since the estimates of the Public Works Department have increased by 38 per cent over previous years and since contracts being let by the Public Works Department since the passing of the estimates a few months ago in this House averaged 20 per cent above those high estimates, would the minister be prepared to make a statement on motions to indicate to the House how he is going to keep the public works budget in line or what cuts are going to be made?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman will have to be patient and wait until the tabling of the estimates for the next fiscal year early in the new year. It will be apparent in some detail then just how the accommodation of increased demand to increased costs is going to be made.