

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Supplementary Order Paper

Wednesday, the 26th Day of October 1977

QUESTIONS AND REPLIES

[Covering period 6 October to 19 October]

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Science Resource Units—Primary Schools

1. Mr MARSHALL (Wanganui) asked the Minister of Education: To what extent are the science sets for primary classes being used by schools?

Hon. L. W. GANDAR (Minister of Education) replied: I assume that the science sets for primary classes referred to in the question are the science resource units that have been produced by my department and distributed to schools during the past 8 years and which accompany the new syllabus in infants to standard 4 science classes. Although teachers are not formally required to use the resource units issued by my department, I am informed that they are proving very acceptable to teachers and are being widely used.

(6/10/77)

Housing Improvement Loans

2. Hon. W. A. FRASER (St. Kilda) asked the Minister of Housing: (a) How many Housing Corporation home improvement loans were authorised at amounts exceeding the \$5,000 ceiling for this type of loan in the last financial year and since 31 March 1977 respectively, and (b) what was the maximum amount authorised for any one loan of this type during the periods in question?

Hon. E. S. F. HOLLAND (Minister of Housing) replied: Separate statistics are not kept of the number of housing improvement loans granted in excess of the normal loan limit of \$5,000, and I am unable to provide the honourable member with the specific information he seeks. In cases of need, substantial loans for improvement of older dwellings are authorised in keeping with the cost of upgrading proposed.

(6/10/77)

Fishing—Foreign Investment

3. Mr COURTNEY (Nelson) asked the Minister of Finance: Does he intend to raise the limit for foreign investment from 24.9 percent for joint fishing ventures?

Rt. Hon. R. D. MULDOON (Minister of Finance) replied: The Government is at present studying the various alternatives for the best utilisation of New Zealand's fishing waters, following the passing of the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act 1977. The question of joint fishing ventures is naturally of particular importance, and an announcement will be made shortly. I should point out that 24.9 percent is not necessarily the maximum percentage of foreign equity permitted in a fishing venture. Foreign investment policy has been to treat each application on its merits, and where particular advantages can be shown which justify a higher percentage than 24.9, approval can be given accordingly by the Overseas Investment Commission. This policy will continue in the future.

(7/10/77)

Balance of Trade Figures

4. Mr MARSHALL (Wanganui) asked the Minister of Overseas Trade: With which countries does the balance of trade stand in favour of New Zealand, and what are the latest annual figures in each case?

Hon. L. R. ADAMS-SCHNEIDER (Acting Minister of Overseas Trade) replied: The balance of trade with the following countries stand in favour of New Zealand in the year to 30 June 1977: