

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): When we speak of files in a matter like this we may be exaggerating somewhat. I have not seen the statement of Admiral O'Brien but I am sure there must have been some qualifications in what he said.

RENTAL INCREASE FOR PERMANENT MARRIED QUARTERS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): I have a question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of National Defence. Has he protested very strongly to his colleague the President of the Treasury Board about the extremely unjust and unfair increase of \$15 a month in the rent for married quarters on military bases across Canada? If so, what was the result?

Mr. Speaker: Order. It seems to me that that question was asked previously.

POLLUTION

REPORTED OIL SPILL OFF ALASKA

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence concerning a reported oil spill off Alaska which may affect Canadian waters and may be the result of a spill from a submarine. Is the minister aware of this oil spill, and are investigations under way to see whether it came from a submarine?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have to confess that I am not aware of this, but obviously if such a spill did take place the appropriate department, which is the Department of Transport, would be investigating the matter, though the spill may not necessarily be in our waters. However, I will check on the report.

HOUSING

ALLOCATION OF \$56 MILLION FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS—PUBLIC HOUSING GUIDELINES

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister in charge of housing and relates to the statement he made yesterday. Is the \$56 million of the \$200 million in experimental funds for housing going exclusively to private builders, or are other organizations such as co-ops, trade unions and churches included in this housing program?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, within the \$56 mil-

lion, if my memory serves me correctly, there are co-operative sponsors. So far as the whole \$200 million is concerned, we would welcome proposals from all legitimate sponsoring groups as defined by the National Housing Act, which includes churches and the other organizations mentioned by the hon. member.

Mr. Gilbert: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell the House whether he has completed negotiations with the provinces with regard to new public housing guidelines? If so, when will they take effect?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, we have not completed negotiations in the sense that each province has indicated in precise terms that it will follow the guidelines that we have suggested or, particularly, the exact date on which they will implement them, but from the initial reactions, as I said the other day, we have been encouraged to think that this matter will proceed smoothly and quickly.

USE OF PORTION OF EXPERIMENTAL FUND FOR URBAN RENEWAL

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In light of the fact that the \$200 million was primarily to be used for experimental projects in connection with low-income housing, and in view of the fact that urban renewal affects low-income housing, is the minister contemplating using any of the \$200 million for urban renewal projects this year?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the answer to that is no. I would say that urban renewal does affect low-income housing, but unfortunately in Canada to date it has affected it adversely.

Mr. Alexander: A further supplementary question. I understood the minister to say that urban renewal has affected certain areas adversely. I respectfully submit that there are some areas in this country that have now presented further urban renewal plans to the minister, particularly the city of Hamilton. Is the minister prepared to receive favourably an application from the city of Hamilton for \$1,500,000?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, it is doubtful. I have discussed this matter with the mayor and a delegation from the city of Hamilton. However, we are examining their proposals and I will be communicating my decision to them very shortly.