

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

as the payment of 50 per cent of the salary to people 45 and over, as well as the \$500 bonus to people having a house built in the winter months? Why did he wait so long before giving information in that regard?

[Text]

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, with respect to the winter house building program there has been no delay whatsoever. The details were announced some weeks ago, and if the hon. gentleman had been following the press he would have noticed the advertisements have for some time been placed therein giving the details of this program and giving individuals the source of further information on the program.

With respect to the older workers program, this is not to come into effect until November 1 and already sufficient detail has been made available and further information will be made available at the appropriate time and in the appropriate way so that interested employers may take advantage of this forward looking step.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lessard (Lake St. John):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question. Does the Minister of Labour intend to send those releases and information to local unemployment insurance offices, since the officials themselves are worried because they have not reached them yet?

[Text]

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the officers of the unemployment insurance commission are fully apprised of this program, because they have requested additional staff. In order to implement these programs, this request has been approved by the government.

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a related question of the Minister of National Revenue and ask him whether the \$500 bonus, if it is collected by individual people, will be treated as income and subject to income tax, or will it be exempt from income tax.

**Hon. J. R. Garland (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I would prefer to take that question as notice.

**Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Labour. Is the minister putting out a pamphlet outlining the qualifications necessary in order to obtain the \$500 grant on these houses?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, that kind of question ought to go on the order paper.

[Mr. Lessard (Lake St. John).]

## VETERANS AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO LETTER IN "VETERANS ADVOCATE"

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, a paper called *The Veterans Advocate* published an open letter to the minister in the August edition. A report in the September edition states they received no acknowledgment from him. May I ask the minister now if he received *The Veterans Advocate* for August, and if he has replied to the very reasonable request made by the veteran author of that article?

**Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** I do not know to what the hon. gentleman refers, but I will check to see if there was a letter. I do not recall reading it.

## HOUSING

EFFECT OF PROVISION FOR DIRECT LOANS  
BY C.M.H.C.

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue who is also responsible for the operations of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. In view of the rapid withdrawal of private mortgage lenders from the house building field and the announcement that Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation will make available \$80 million for house construction, can he tell me how many housing units this would represent, and whether he feels this is sufficient for the needs of the house building industry across Canada?

**Hon. J. R. Garland (Minister of National Revenue):** Without going into a debate on the orders of the day, I believe that the action I announced on Monday, a week ago yesterday, for direct lending will be sufficient to make up for any withdrawal by the private lenders from the field. This is the purpose of the exercise. Action was taken, rather than sitting around waiting for something to happen, because we wanted to make sure our winter program for house building would continue with all possible speed.

**Mr. Starr:** May I ask a supplementary question. I wonder if the minister would mind letting the house know how many units this \$80 million represents.

**Mr. Garland:** I am sure that the hon. gentleman is quite capable of making his own calculations. The announcement I made, if he would confine his thinking to the announcement, stated that we expected about 10,000 new units would be created.