

*Inquiries of the Ministry***FINANCE****MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES—PLANS TO CONTROL INCREASE**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. As housing mortgage rates have increased by half of one per cent since early March, give every indication of continuing to go up, and are considerably slowing down housing starts, has the government any plans to stop or slow down this dangerous rise or does it intend to let these rates continue to rise unchecked?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, a good part of the question is hypothetical, but the government has introduced measures to increase the availability of funds in the residential mortgage market.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I still say to the Minister of Finance that what he is doing is obviously ineffective. Is he planning to take another look at this matter and take effective steps?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Chair indicated yesterday it would recognize certain hon. members early in the question period. The hon. member for Simcoe North.

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HEALTH**SUGGESTED USE OF HEALTH RESOURCES FUND ALLOTMENTS AS INCENTIVE TO INCREASE NUMBER OF MEDICAL STUDENTS**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the increasing shortage of general practitioners in Canada, is the minister considering taking steps to ensure that the funds allotted by the health resources fund to medical schools are used more specifically as incentives to increase the number of medical students and are not merely used at the discretion of the board?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the funds are not allocated at the discretion of the board. The act is quite specific about the manner in which these funds are allocated. However, I would say the idea behind the hon. member's question is certainly worthy of consideration.

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NATIONAL PARKS**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT KOUCHIBOUGUAC—STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESIDENTS—PLANS TO RESOLVE DISPUTE**

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Have negotiations broken down between the parks branch and the residents of Kouchibouguac where

[Mr. Munro.]

a new national park is to be located? Is the government building there still being occupied, and what are the plans of the government to resolve the dispute.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): I will take the question as notice on behalf of my seatmate, Mr. Speaker.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS**PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF BLIND STUDENTS FROM HALIFAX**

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, before putting my question perhaps I might be permitted to draw the attention of the House to the presence in the gallery of over 40 blind students from Atlantic Canada from the Halifax School for the Blind. I do this because earlier today they used an expression I will always remember when they were in the chamber. They said they were looking in on us.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**INQUIRY AS TO PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ON REPORTED STALKING OF PRESIDENT NIXON DURING OTTAWA VISIT**

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Does he propose to make public any information on the reported stalking of President Nixon during his Ottawa visit?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have received a report from the RCMP Commissioner stating that in fact that person was in Ottawa during President Nixon's visit, that the subject arrived on April 13 and left on April 15, that he was registered at the Lord Elgin Hotel, that he was seen in front of the United States Embassy and also in front of the Peace Tower.

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[English]

FINANCE**MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES—ACTION TO PREVENT INCREASE AND RETAIN PRESENT LEVEL UNDER NATIONAL HOUSING ACT**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I return to questions which were asked of the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the legislation announced with regard to some kind of a flow of mortgage money for housing does not necessarily guarantee a lowering of the mortgage rate, and in view of the fact that everybody expects mortgage rates to go up, would the minister be good enough to tell us whether the government is at all concerned about the increasing cost to home owners and