Oral Questions

the Liberal party's recommendation on housing afford-ability to the Canadian Housing Renewal Association. I might add it was very well received.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fontana: I would also like to tell the minister that all the speakers, the 500 participants, municipal leaders, and all other people involved in housing, have labelled this government a do–nothing government for housing.

I want to ask this minister and his government will he today in this House, or tomorrow when he meets with CHRA, commit his government to the reinstatement of rental RRAP? Will he show support for the homeless? Will he show support for the people on the waiting list for affordable housing? Will he support and recommit himself to co–operative housing? And, will he support the workers and builders—

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. member has put his question.

Hon. Alan Redway (Minister of State (Housing)): Mr. Speaker, I, too, had meetings with a number of people involved with housing at the municipal level yesterday, including mayors of big cities across the country, and I must say the government and its programs were very well received there as well.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Redway: I am looking forward to the meetings tomorrow with the Canadian Housing Renewal Association because I will have an opportunity to tell them that, under our programs, as opposed to Liberal govern-ment programs, 60 per cent more of the housing funds federally are being devoted to social housing than before.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Peterson: Balderdash!

Mr. Joe Fontana (London East): Mr. Speaker, the minister knows that that is a bunch of bunk. He knows it and his government knows it. The municipal leaders were the same ones who said that the government does absolutely nothing.

Let me ask this further question, but I wish he would answer my first question. The housing ministers will meet with the minister next week. They want some solutions to the housing crisis in the country. Will the

Minister in fact be part of the solution and not part of the problem?

Hon. Alan Redway (Minister of State (Housing)): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that I will be part of the solution and not part of the problem. I also want to assure the hon. member that, if he carefully followed what was going on next week, he would know that the meeting with housing ministers is to discuss the alloca-tion of the existing federal housing funds among the provinces. Hopefully, we can arrive at a formula on which all will agree, as they did in the past under the Regina Accord, something that did not happen under the former Liberal government.

Mr. Marchi: That's bunk! Minister of bunk.

An hon. member: Exactly!

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FORESTRY

Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Forestry. Yesterday, an environmental group called Can-ada's Future Forest Alliance, which represents over one million Canadians, stated that our forests were facing a national disaster comparable to the destruction of the Amazon forests.

Since the present government policies and programs result in a net loss of 200 hectares of Canadian forests annually, what new programs will the government imple-ment to remedy the depletion of Canada's forests?

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speak-er, we very much intend to continue the programs that we have initiated over the last five years and which, as the hon. member might readily concede, are showing very impressive results. In fact, one should anticipate that there should not be any more additions to any so–called backlog of NSR lands as we move into the new generation of federal–provincial agreements, and as the new Department of Forestry which the Prime Minister has established begins to function fully.

[Translation]

Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur): My question is directed to the same minister. Because of the government's failure to create a national data bank, there is a lack of information on the state of Canada's forests. As a result, contradictory statements are being