

your difficulties, since I appreciate very much the privilege of sitting in this chamber with you in the chair.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I wish to thank the Prime Minister for his very friendly and kind welcome to me today. I wish to thank him in particular for the kind remarks he made about my predecessor in Colchester-Hants, a very gallant Canadian who has done so much to serve his country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Of course it remains to be seen what service he has rendered his country in this instance.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I assure the Prime Minister that it will certainly be my endeavour, and I am sure the endeavour of the opposition, to assist in the operation of the house and in forwarding the business of the country.

I am fully aware of the importance of the position I now hold as Leader of the Opposition. I think a good opposition is essential to good government, and if by being a good opposition we incidentally improve the government in the process, this will be something in which we and the Canadian people alike will rejoice. More seriously, we have a heavy responsibility on our side of the house and we shall do our best to discharge it properly.

I wish to express my appreciation also to the leaders of the other parties who have welcomed me here this afternoon. I should like to say a word particularly to the leader of the New Democratic party about his reference to the many services I have performed in Nova Scotia. He omitted, however, to refer to one service which I often claim to have performed in Nova Scotia. I was a little surprised that when referring to my wrecking activities he did not refer to the manner in which we had succeeded in wrecking his party in that province.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

[Translation]

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, of all the problems that concern our country, the one that goes deepest is that of unity.

As I take my seat in this house for the first time as leader of a great party, I must say

27053-272

### Questions

that my presence here would be a great disappointment to me if I did not succeed in doing my share toward building a united Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

[English]

### QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

#### SETTLEMENT OF ARAB REFUGEES IN CANADA

##### Question No. 459—Mr. Dinsdale:

1. Has the government established a policy to resettle Arab refugees in Canada?
2. If so, how many Arab refugees have come to Canada under the scheme?

**Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Secretary of State):** I am informed by the Departments of External Affairs and Manpower and Immigration as follows: 1. No.

2. Not applicable.

#### HOUSING PROGRAM FOR INDIANS

##### Question No. 478—Mr. Dinsdale:

1. Since the inauguration of the housing program for Canada's Indian population, how much of the \$112,000,000 has been expended?
2. How many houses have been completed?
3. How many houses are under construction?
4. Where are they located?
5. How many houses have been built for Indians living off the reserves and where are they located?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** The program referred to was a 5 year \$112,000,000 expenditure for the physical development of Indian reserves of which \$75,000,000 is to be used as assistance to provide houses in the 5 year term. As of August 31, 1967, \$16,822,130 has been expended.

2. As of August 31, 1967, 3,435 houses have been completed.

3. As of August 31, 1967, 1,096 houses are under construction.

4. Maritime region, 104; Quebec region, 265; Ontario region, 431; Manitoba region, 781; Saskatchewan region, 724; Alberta region, 490; B.C. and Yukon region, 460.

5. Indians who qualify for housing assistance off Indian reserves may choose to have