

*Adjournment Debate*

**Mr. Maurice Harquail (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. Hogan), because of his interest in the subject and his experience in that area, would want to point out publicly the most positive thrust that has been made evident, especially in the Cape Breton area, in terms of assistance in housing programs. I would enjoin the hon. member to give credit where credit is due in terms of the amount of money and effort expended in that area by the federal government.

I have been advised by officials of CMHC that, under the residential rehabilitation assistance program, repairs to the basic components, basements and house sidings are not excluded. The changed regulations to which the hon. member refers are the standards for the rehabilitation of residential buildings. These standards were modified in 1977 and, following consultation with numerous municipalities across Canada, became effective after January 1, 1978.

These two repair items remain within these standards. Specifically, a section concerning structural repairs entitled "Foundations" reads as follows:

Foundations shall be restored to ensure that they reasonably support the loads imposed.

I emphasize "shall" because not only is this item included, but any repairs to foundations which may be required are mandatory. The following standard, however, has made extensive upgrading ineligible:

A mud sill foundation may be replaced by a pier or perimeter type foundation. No further upgrading of the foundation is eligible, for example—changing a crawl space foundation to a conventional full basement.

The rationale for this restriction, which is one of the most significant changes from the previous standards, is that urban RRAP is a rehabilitation program, not a modernization program. Where a basement did not exist previously, one cannot be provided under this program.

With respect to house siding, I wish to quote as follows from a section in the standards concerning exterior walls and roofs:

All exterior walls and roofs shall have an acceptable cladding or covering to prevent the entry of moisture into the structure and provide reasonable durability. Exterior cladding shall not be replaced except where restoration or repair is not justifiable in terms of cost. All exterior material subject to deterioration in its unprotected state should be painted or otherwise suitably treated.

Again, emphasis is placed on the mandatory nature of repairs which may be required to the house siding. The guideline within the standard, however, warns against the replacement of siding solely for aesthetic reasons or for ease of maintenance.

I wish to repeat what the minister said at that time, namely that we have to ensure that the money involved in this program is used in the best possible way to improve the living conditions of low income people, which is why the two points mentioned by the hon. member concerning basements and house siding are not only applicable but emphasized when rehabilitating housing.

With reference to the emergency repair program, I have been advised by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation that a grant was provided to the citizens services league of Glace Bay in the amount of \$148,213 covering the period July 5, 1977 to December 31, 1978. The grant was increased from \$48,213 to \$148,213, but it should be noted that the period covered is 18 months rather than the usual six months.

If further funds are required by the CSL, a special submission will have to be prepared and forwarded for consideration. It should be pointed out, however, that the emergency repair program RNH budget for 1978 is currently fully allocated to other applicants.

With the introduction of residential rehabilitation in rural areas in 1974, the emergency repair program is gradually being phased out. The total budget was \$3 million in 1975, \$2 million in each of 1977 and 1978, and it is anticipated that it will be \$1 million in 1979.

● (2232)

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.