Inquiries of the Ministry

HOUSING

ROCHDALE COLLEGE—ISSUANCE OF FINAL ORDER OF FORECLOSURE—REFERENCE OF MATTER TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In light of the fact that the minister has issued a writ of foreclosure against Rochdale College—I know he cannot make a statement at this time because of the legal niceties—can he at least advise the House whether a final order of foreclosure has been signed and issued?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): As I have indicated on previous occasions, a writ of foreclosure was sought on August 17, I believe. It was our forecast at that time that it could take up to 18 months or two years before total legal possession is surrendered to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. I think the hon. member is aware there are at least three or four other mortgagors or creditors to be dealt with and that there are legal processes by which this thing must be solved. We cannot hurry up the process. We have financial and management control of the operation at this time, but there is no way the process can be speeded up except through the courts.

An hon. Member: What about the suicides?

Mr. Alexander: I have one supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I shall not go into the legal—

Mr. Andras: On a question of privilege-

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister is rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, there was an aside which suggested something about suicide. I think that casual reference to this kind of very sad events is not really helpful and I would wonder how CMHC could be assigned the responsibility for law and order in such a situation or in fact to impose itself upon all the personal decisions that would go into such a tragic event.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, on the same question of privilege-

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps it might be a different question of privilege because I doubt whether that was a question of privilege.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that I started this conversation I hope the Minister of State for Urban Affairs knows that the hon. member for Hamilton West did not make that interjection. In any event, without getting into the niceties of the legal argument to which the minister referred, can the minister assure the House that once legal title is placed in the hands of the government of Canada he would refer this whole matter to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs so it can look into it and come up with a report which will perhaps help to prevent the type of situation he is faced with now?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I doubt whether there would be a necessity for any such reference to be made, but I [Mr. Davis.] also would take no steps to prevent discussion of the matter before the committee on an appropriate occasion.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize a last supplementary because we are running short of time.

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of State for Urban Affairs tell us, with respect to the action against Rochdale on the first mortgage of CMHC, whether a writ of possession has been obtained from the courts and a judgment signed with reference to subsequent encumbrances on the title?

Mr. Andras: I do not think I can make any further legal interpretation or comment on the affair other than what I have already stated in response to the hon. member for Hamilton West.

* * * NATIONAL DEFENCE

SUGGESTED WITHDRAWAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR UNITED STATES BOMBER TRAINING FLIGHTS OVER SOUTHERN MANITOBA AND SASKATCHEWAN

Mr. John Burton (Reging East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of National Defence. In view of the lack of responsiveness of the United States on matters of concern to Canada as evidenced by the recent Amchitka test announcement, is the government considering withdrawing its authorization for U.S. B-52 bomber training flights over southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan and reviewing other arrangements such as NORAD?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): No, sir.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

LENNOX ISLAND RESERVE—CONSTRUCTION OF LINK TO MAINLAND

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development with regard to the longstanding concern about the construction of a permanent link between the Lennox Island Indian reserve and the mainland of Prince Edward Island. In view of the acceleration in the projected cost of construction of this permanent link, can the minister inform the House whether he has reached a successful conclusion with other departments in order to have sufficient money available to start this project either late this year or early next year?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister of Public Works has something to announce in that regard.

[English]

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I would be most grateful to hear from the Minister of Public Works because there is a great deal of concern.

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, so far as I know everything is in order. The