

[English]

Mr. Crosbie: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance is the Donald Duck of finance ministers. When he is asked a question, all he does is squawk. We want more than squawks; we want some action. If we look at the capacity utilization rate for the first quarter, it is 82.7 per cent, which is the lowest rate of use of Canadian industry since 1961 when the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce kept statistics. It is the lowest rate in mining, the lowest rate in manufacturing, and reflects the weak demand in the Canadian economy. The minister has brought down two budgets—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: I know you do not like this. My question is, what is the honourable Donald Duck going to do to reverse this trend?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Rimouski.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I know why—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Rimouski.

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[Translation]

URBAN AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR DETAILS ON CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE DWELLINGS IN GASPÉ PENINSULA, QUEBEC

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of State for Urban Affairs confirm to the House whether there is any truth in the article published in last Tuesday's edition of *La Presse* according to which the minister has just authorized the construction of four single dwellings in four Gaspé peninsula villages for which the federal government supplies free building materials and the manpower would be provided benevolently by local residents? If so, does he intend to promote that program across the country?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this is a pilot project which has been proposed by the hon. member for Matane. He has worked along with some officials of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation on that program and when I visited his riding I was pleased to announce that CMHC would provide the funds necessary to see that pilot project through.

Oral Questions

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL GRANT LOANS AT INTEREST RATE CORRESPONDING TO COST OF ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): I would like to ask a supplementary question. With a view to encouraging the private sector, would the minister consider as an alternative building single family dwellings? That would reduce current excessive costs. Builders could also receive loans at an interest rate equal to administrative costs. Would not the minister agree that this is a more logical solution than to ask the population to do voluntary work? Nobody works for nothing these days, and I think it is pretty difficult to find anybody who will work for nothing.

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): I gather that the hon. member does not approve of the pilot project. It is too early yet to see whether or not it will be useful. I would ask him to wait until the end of the summer, and we can talk about it then.

Mr. Allard: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister another supplementary question.

The minister has answered only part of my question. The House would like to know if he intends to duplicate that experience in the other provinces in general, or to restrict it to Quebec.

Mr. Ouellet: I thought I had answered the hon. member by saying that this is a pilot project. We have to see, first of all, whether or not this project will be useful before extending it throughout the country. I think it is too early yet to draw any conclusions. This is a small project concerning four houses in four different villages, and we are waiting to see the results before doing anything else. If it is successful, we will of course draw the obvious conclusions at that time.

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● (1432)

[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

FINANCIAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDANTS OF CRANBROOK, B.C. AIR CRASH

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. It now has an added aspect of urgency due to the harrowing coverage given last week by the CBC to the aftermath of the Cranbrook air crash and from further news reports in the Ottawa press this week.

Is the ministry engaged in negotiations with regard to the pooling of insurance claims for the victims of the Cranbrook air crash? If so, can the minister report progress on those negotiations and has he learned, in response to the question put by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain,