

HOUSING

PROVISION OF MORE MONEY BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister in charge of housing. What steps has the minister taken, either persuasive or legislative, in regard to financial institutions contributing more money to the housing field to relieve the housing crisis?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that the way the question is phrased is an invitation to the minister to give a statement which normally should be made on motions. Perhaps the question should be rephrased.

Mr. Gilbert: Then I will rephrase my question and ask the minister whether he has made any representations to the financial institutions to contribute more money to the housing field to meet the housing crisis?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, we are in almost weekly communication with representatives of the lending institutions. I might say that they have performed fairly well this year and that we will be reaching housing starts somewhat in excess of 200,000. We are in constant discussion with the lending institutions as to their plans for next year.

Mr. Gilbert: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. What steps has the minister taken to reduce high interest rates, and is he considering interest subsidies and rent supplements to meet the present situation?

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister agree to make a statement on motions concerning urban renewal?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I will give that consideration.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

STEPS TO PREVENT IMPORT OF U.S. DIETETIC FOODS CONTAINING CYCLAMATE

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address this question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I ask this question in view of the statement of the Minister of National Health and Welfare on the phasing out of the use of cyclamate in diet foods in Canada. What steps is the minister now taking to ensure that United States produced dietetic food products containing cyclamate, which

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are to be banned in the United States by February, will not be allowed to flood our market prior to the Canadian dead line?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I confess that I was not involved myself in this matter. I will ascertain whether I should have been. I will find out whose ministerial responsibility it is—I presume it comes mainly under Health and Welfare—ascertain what is being done and report to the House.

GRAIN

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF TRANSPORT CONTROLLER

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio, the hon. member for Saskatoon-Humboldt. In view of the renewed difficulty being experienced at many prairie points in obtaining boxcars for grain shipments, and in view of the fact that the new block system of grain movement is still only in the early stages of introduction, is consideration being given to the appointment of a transport controller to deal with some of the current difficulties?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): No, Mr. Speaker. The block system is proving to work very efficiently indeed. It is now hoped that the blocks will be completely in effect throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan by the end of December and in the rest of the region before the opening of the navigation season. In view of this circumstance I think good progress is in fact being made in this area of transportation.

Mr. Burton: A supplementary question. Although the block system does have some merit, it still will not deal with some of the difficulties that are being experienced. Could the minister enlighten the House as to other measures that are being considered in order to deal with the problem of grain movement?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, it seems that I may have—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that he is asking for a general statement that ought to be made on motions.

Mr. Burton: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Halifax-East Hants.