

CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

AUDIT OF MORTGAGE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. No doubt the Minister knows that I have some questions on the Order Paper relating to the mortgage portfolio management system. Could he tell the House whether the audit of that program has been completed, what are the costs in ball-park figures, and whether he is satisfied with the program as to its efficiency and general cost effectiveness.

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member will permit me to take this question as notice. I will look into it.

* * *

THE ADMINISTRATION

EBCO INDUSTRIES LTD.—STATEMENT BY FORMER MINISTER

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I have given him short notice of it. It refers to the statement which I made on Mr. Norman Cafik yesterday. Two hours ago Mr. Cafik said on television in British Columbia that he was called in to help his company get the \$6.7 million DIPP grant. He said, "My job had nothing to do with this sort of thing. I was called in. I used my knowledge of Government to tell them", that is the company, "what to do and how to do it".

Would the Minister agree that that is a clear example of lobbying? Will he also agree to table all correspondence and minutes of any meetings held between Mr. Cafik and the then responsible Minister, the President of the Treasury Board?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, this morning I had a chance to read the allegations of the Hon. Member in the press and I had a preliminary investigation undertaken. I am advised that our Department dealt with this company long before Mr. Cafik was ever employed by the firm. As a matter of fact it received financial assistance from the Government of Canada through the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce long before Mr. Cafik was employed by the company. I want to also indicate to the Hon. Member that our relations with the company have not changed since Mr. Cafik's employment.

Mr. Waddell: The Minister was not listening to what Mr. Cafik said. He said that he was called in especially to use his knowledge.

ROLE OF FORMER MINISTER OF INDUSTRY

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Given the fact that Mr. Cafik also said that he met personally

with the present President of Treasury Board before the two-year period was over, that the contract was dated exactly two years after he quit Government, and that in fact he saw the Minister and made representations, would the present Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce not agree that the previous Minister—I am not referring to Mr. Cafik, but to the previous Minister responsible, who is now the President of Treasury Board—breached the guidelines by giving privileged access in this matter? Will he now agree that the Government should in fact refer this matter, the Gillespie matter, and the matter of the conflict of interest guidelines, to a House of Commons Committee for examination?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, with the greatest respect to the Hon. Member, as I understood his preamble, he was getting his information third-hand from the media who allegedly heard it from Mr. Cafik. I will check that out with Mr. Cafik. I want to also remind the Hon. Member that Mr. Cafik was, as I recall, the Minister of Multiculturalism and not the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Regional Economic Expansion. However, I will have a discussion with Mr. Cafik and get back to the Hon. Member.

* * *

• (1450)

ENERGY

FUNDING FOR BEAUFORT SEA RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. How does the Minister justify allocating \$1.5 billion to the development of resources in the Beaufort Sea while only allocating \$40 million for the development of human resources, our greatest human resource being the unemployed youth of our country?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, quite frankly, I wonder where the Hon. Member got those figures. We now have a general program of incentives for the oil industry which benefits all companies in Canada, especially Canadian companies. The money spent by oil companies in Canada is beneficial to Canadian workers. As the Hon. Member himself has regularly spoken in this House over the last few years about the problems of the oil industry and the resulting unemployment, I am surprised at his rising today to express his concerns over a possible resumption of activity in the oil industry.

Regarding assistance to the unemployed in Canada, Madam Speaker, I remind him that the Canadian government has allocated over \$2 billion in its budget to help those who are looking for work through direct job creation programs, not to mention the \$8.6 billion paid to the unemployed last year.