

*Oral Questions***ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS****SUGGESTION FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF FERTILIZER—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment regarding statements made in the budget that there is a shortage and a high cost in respect of fertilizer in Canada. Can the minister advise this House whether she has any plans to bring in legislation to allow the federal government to subsidize sewage treatment plants across Canada in order that Canada can produce fertilizer through these tertiary treatment plants and thus make sure we have a high supply of fertilizer at low cost?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, there is already a federal government program of which the municipalities can take advantage for the treatment of sewage waters. Any province can take advantage of it.

Mr. Reynolds: As the minister must know, Mr. Speaker, this legislation does not require the municipality to have tertiary treatment plants, but only supplies money for treatment plants. Will the minister bring in legislation requiring tertiary treatment plants so that we will have fertilizer from the sewage plants and then Canada will have lots of fertilizer at low cost?

Mrs. Sauvé: Mr. Speaker, the question is a little bit involved and several departments might be required to look at this.

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HOUSING**AVAILABILITY OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR GRANT FOR CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING**

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, in view of the statement by the Economic Council of Canada in its 11th annual report to the effect that low income families face a very serious housing crisis in this country, and in view of the fact that the predecessor of the minister responsible for housing when introducing the major housing bill at the last session of parliament indicated that co-op housing offered the best opportunity of alleviating the housing problem for low income families, would the minister explain to the House why this discrimination exists against purchasers of co-op housing in respect of the \$500 first purchase grant?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there is certainly not a discrimination against co-op housing. As a matter of fact, I give it very high priority, but I do not consider it the one answer to the housing problem, but one in which I am particularly interested. I think the hon. member should bear in mind that there is 100 per cent financing plus a 10 per cent grant. This is to help people make a downpayment. We are not only helping the people make a downpayment, but giving them 10 per cent on top of that to buy the land. If there is not enough money in the new legislation as a

[Mr. Andras.]

result of the 10 per cent for land in high cost areas, we are going to make that even easier for them.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE**DEFENCE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT, ESQUIMALT—POSSIBLE CLOSING**

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I have given notice of my question to the Minister of National Defence. As part of the minister's reduction of the armed forces is he planning to close out the defence research establishment facilities with the loss of jobs for 39 scientists and 80 other staff?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker, there are no current plans to reduce the level of activity at the defence research establishment at Esquimalt.

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IMMIGRATION**APPLICATION OF KAMINSKI FAMILY FOR REFUGEE STATUS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and relates to the Kaminski family which has applied for political asylum in Canada. Has the minister examined this particular case and has he made a decision on the merits?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Kaminski family has now applied to remain in Canada as refugees, and this will be given full and serious consideration. I am not in a position yet to indicate to the House a decision because all the information has not yet been made available to me.

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FINANCE**PROPOSAL THAT OPEC COUNTRIES LEND MONEY TO INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the extremely serious world situation arising out of the enormous monetary balance held by the OPEC countries, can the minister tell the House what success the committee, of which he is the chairman, of the International Monetary Fund has had in getting these countries to lend their money to the International Monetary Fund or any other world bank?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, some progress is being made on a number of fronts and I will be in Washington on Friday talking to the managing director of the International Monetary Fund and the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.