

HOUSING

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ENSURE BUILDING OF RENTAL UNITS

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the statement in this morning's *Globe and Mail* by A. E. Diamond, chairman of Cadillac Fairview Corporation, in which he predicted very little new rental apartment construction will be undertaken as a result of Ontario's rent control legislation, and that less fortunate people will be the sufferers as a result of this legislation, will the minister assure us that he will increase the new capital budget of CMHC for 1976-77 and that CMHC will build rental apartment units, if necessary, to ensure that there will be a sufficient number of rental units to take care of this serious problem?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not completely agree with Mr. Diamond's statement, or at least the *Globe and Mail's* interpretation of it. I met with builders and lenders last night, and have every assurance we are going to have the support we need in bringing on more rental accommodation. However, in addition to that, because much of the money will be coming from the private sector, we are allocating some half a billion dollars specially for increased rental accommodation, low income accommodation, non-profit and co-operative housing, senior citizens, native people and all Canadians who are socially deprived.

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AIRPORTS

MIRABEL—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF DATA ON WHICH SKY SHOPS AWARDED FRANCHISE

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the questions raised about the awarding of the concession at Mirabel to Sky Shops Export Limited, and in order that the people of Canada may be assured that they and their government have received the best possible return for this very valuable franchise, will the minister table in the House the calculations on which he says the interdepartmental committee awarded the franchise to Sky Shops?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will examine what material is available and determine whether that would be the best technique or whether at the committee on estimates we can thoroughly go into the matter. I will certainly look at what is available.

Mr. MacKay: I urge that the minister seriously consider this request, and if he does not table them, I think it will be taken that these calculations cannot stand up to scrutiny by any reasonable persons—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. MacKay: —for reasons which would transcend any departmental meditation.

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for St. John's East.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—SUGGESTED MONITORING OF FOOD AND HOUSING PRICES BY BOARD

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the consumer price index today indicated that food as well as housing were the major factors in the upward increase of almost a full percentage point in the cost of living figures for October, and in view of the fact that the present legislation embodying the government's anti-inflation program contains no provisions for controlling either food prices or housing prices, I ask the minister what steps the government is taking in the interim, while the bill is before committee and subject to amendment, to have the Anti-Inflation Board monitor price movements in food and to establish whether these prices are in fact justified?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if I could correct the hon. gentleman, I draw his attention to Bill C-73 and point out that the construction industry is in fact subject to the provisions of the anti-inflation program. With regard to food prices, my understanding is that the board, and particularly the vice-chairman of the board, retains an active interest in and attention to these particular increases.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON IMPOSITION OF PRICE FREEZE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): In order to gain the consensus of Canadian people on this program, which is so essential to its success, is the government considering imposing an immediate freeze, based on the experience of British Columbia, which would make the program at least appear to be just and equitable, not only to wage earners, but to everyone else?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1120)

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, of course what is involved in food prices as in other things, and as has been indicated by the study of the Food Prices Review Board, which has been supported by the hon. member opposite, food prices increases have been the result of real costs coming through farm production in Canada and imports. In that sense, a freeze now would only postpone for several months for the consumers in Canada, additional costs they will have to meet. As I understand it, higher beef prices and pork prices contribute to this. The fact of the matter is that these commodities have in short supply, and while we have every hope this will be recovered in the months to come, there does exist the fact that prices are under pressure at the moment.