

Inquiries of the Ministry

entitled "Social Policies for Canada". In view of the fact that some of the best social legislation that we have ever had came out of a parliamentary committee—and I refer to the old age security committee of 1950—would the government consider referring the whole question of its review of social welfare policies, old age pensions and other matters to a special committee so that we might all become involved in any proposals in regard to changes in this field?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be premature at this time to give any indication that this would be the course of government action, but I would be pleased to take the suggestion of the hon. member under consideration later on.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister whether in considering this matter the government will take note not only of the document released today by the Canadian Welfare Council but also the new proposals regarding old age security which have been put forth in Britain?

Mr. Munro: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question arising out of the report. Will the government undertake the implementation of the recommendation of the report that a study be made of appropriate methods to implement a guaranteed income?

Mr. Munro: I believe this concept, along with all other ideas and concepts in the whole social welfare field are under review and I believe that has been indicated to the house previously.

[Translation]

SPORTS**ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL SKI TEAM**

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare or to his parliamentary secretary.

Last week I asked a question about a federal grant to the national ski team. Would either one be in a position to answer this question today?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Fitness

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

and Amateur Sports Council has approved, and I have approved, the grant of some \$198,000 from their fund for the Ski Association and I am informed that this represents approximately 45 per cent of their budget.

HOUSING**REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE RESPECTING URBAN RENEWAL PROGRAM**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): I have a question for the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker. In view of the growing concern of several municipalities which have commenced urban renewal projects because of the possibility of cut-backs in the federal commitment, can the minister assure this house, the nation and particularly the municipalities that there will be no cut-backs so far as those urban renewal programs which have already been started?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give blanket assurance at this stage, but I can assure my hon. friend this is one of the matters which I will refer to the government for consideration and decision at an early date. There are inevitably certain projects which must continue. I think if one were looking at the priorities involved he might conclude a certain postponement would be in the national interest until we can provide adequate housing for all our Canadian citizens. I think the best thing to do is take a look at the subject immediately, and then be in a position to reply definitively in each existing case.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it the intention of the minister to enter into a dialogue with either provincial or municipal authorities before reaching any definite conclusion in this regard?

Mr. Hellyer: There certainly will be adequate opportunity for discussion. I think informal talks will be held with provincial ministers some time later. I know the Canadian Association of Mayors and Reeves are studying the report very carefully, and will be putting forward some representations with respect to it. Naturally all representations received will be given thoughtful consideration.

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): A supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the priorities he mentioned, can he tell the house when he intends to make the announcement of a proposed \$36 million housing project in Corner Brook, Newfoundland?