

the situation is still unsatisfactory, and for that reason we are considering opening a regional purchasing office in British Columbia, as we did recently in Edmonton.

* * *

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING—POSSIBLE AID TO THOSE ON FIXED INCOMES

Mr. Ian Arrol (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. Yesterday the Prime Minister did not answer whether the government would consider some emergency action to help at least those on fixed incomes. In view of the reports from three room registry services in Toronto and the housing consultant to the Metro Social Planning Council that the increase in old age pensions has accelerated a general round of rent increases in Toronto and has left many of the poorest on pensions almost no better prepared to face—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is making a speech rather than asking a question. I think I have to caution hon. members again to ask their questions as briefly as possible without prefacing them by lengthy statements.

Mr. Arrol: May I then ask the question directly, Mr. Speaker? Would the Acting Prime Minister answer the question and indicate whether any immediate action will be considered?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman, through you, for his representations. They will be taken into account.

* * *

NATIONAL DEFENCE

JERICHO DEFENCE LAND, VANCOUVER—INTENTION OF GOVERNMENT AS TO USE—REQUEST FOR RETURN TO VANCOUVER FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. It concerns the 30 acres of defence land at Jericho. In view of the statements of the Minister of Urban Affairs that the government would be prepared to put housing on this land, could the Acting Prime Minister tell the House now what the policy of the government is with respect to the 30 acres? Is it for housing or is it for parkland?

● (1150)

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think that question should be directed to the minister responsible for urban affairs who will be here on Monday.

Mr. Fraser: I am sorry the Acting Prime Minister does not know what the government's policy is—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

Mr. Fraser: —but can he advise the House where the money came from to pay the \$33 million for parkland in Toronto, and would the government be prepared to take funds from the same source, apply them to the Department of National Defence, and get this land back to Vancouver for recreational purposes?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: From the reaction to the hon. member's question he will appreciate that perhaps it was not a question but rather a representation.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

BRUCELLOSIS—RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTROL AND COMPENSATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Elias Nesdoly (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In light of the meeting held in Debden, Saskatchewan, on June 21 between federal government veterinarians and farmers whose herds are affected by brucellosis or Bang's disease, when a comprehensive brief was presented to the government regarding measures which could be used to bring the disease under control, and suggestions for adequate compensation, has the minister studied this brief and has a decision been made to implement some or all of the recommendations?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I do not agree with everything that the hon. member has said, which of course would be quite natural.

An hon. Member: What is brucellosis?

Mr. Whelan: Some hon. member asks what is brucellosis. It is a disease that has the same effect as an abortion.

Mr. Hees: Explain, Gene.

Mr. Whelan: It is contagious abortion. I just want to say that we have studied the brief, and we have the utmost confidence in the Health of Animals Branch of the Canadian Department of Agriculture which has one of the best records of all health of animals branches in the world. We are studying what additional compensation should be paid to the farmers, and the report will be made soon.

Mr. Nesdoly: As a supplementary question, in light of the fact that, despite the wonderful record of the Health of Animals Branch, several more infected herds were discovered in the last few weeks and brucellosis is reaching epidemic proportions, when can we expect the minister to make the necessary decisions, which will be humanitarian in their approach, rather than trying to hold a club over the farmers' heads?