

*Oral Questions*

Kirby, and I have stressed my very strong concern to him on this matter. On the other hand, with the state of the law as it now exists and with the prerogative which exists for that band, I do not see how I can interfere other than to make representations to the chief and the council.

[Translation]

**Miss Bégin:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Am I to understand that these discretionary powers of the minister only apply to women 60 years of age or over?

[English]

**Mr. Buchanan:** Neither younger nor older.

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**HUMAN RIGHTS****SUGGESTED ADVANCEMENT OF LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING COMMISSION**

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** I would like to ask the Minister of Justice if he could not advance the legislation setting up the human rights commission so that the situation outlined by the hon. member and many other anomalies could be brought to an end.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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**HOUSING****POSSIBILITY OF NEW MEASURES TO USE PUBLIC SECTOR TO INCREASE NUMBER OF STARTS**

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the minister's admission yesterday that it would be virtually impossible for Canada to meet his target of 210,000 housing starts for this year, and in view of the fact that the private sector of our economy has demonstrated that it cannot do its job in this field, has the minister any new proposals with regard to what the public sector can do?

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, there certainly were elements in the budget, and even prior to the budget, which made it possible for the private sector and lenders to participate competitively in the mortgage market, and it is in their best interest to help this cause. We are encouraging them, as is the Minister of Finance, to designate as much money as they can for housing mortgages. The president of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has been in touch with the heads of lending institutions, and I am in the process of contacting them once more to try to encourage their activity in the mortgage field.

**Mr. Orlikow:** In view of the fact that the figure of 210,000 housing starts was a goal set by the minister—despite the fact that many people and organizations interested in housing said that objective was too low—and in view of the fact that we are not meeting it, and since the

[Mr. Buchanan.]

provinces are virtually unanimous in their view that with the present interest rates for mortgages and the amount of money available we will not reach the goal, will the minister and the head of CMHC give further consideration, in view of the failure of the private sector, to bring forward plans so that the public sector can meet the shortfall which the minister now admits exists.

**Mr. Danson:** The 210,000 was hardly a target. It is a figure we set as a minimum to maintain our existing standard. We might very well fall short of that. We want to keep as close to it as we possibly can. This is why we have an additional infusion of funds and why we have enriched the subsidies program. We are looking in every way possible to industry and the lenders. This is very important. If the hon. member has any magic solution, we would like to know of it. The budget, as some hon. members suggested, put in an additional amount which alone would give Ontario double what they put in themselves.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE****DAIRYING—INCREASED LEVY ON INDUSTRIAL MILK—INQUIRY AS TO CONSULTATION**

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the fact that the Canadian Dairy Commission has advised industrial milk producers that an additional 45 cents will be withheld on milk, reducing accordingly the producers' revenue, could the minister tell the House whether that decision was taken as a result of discussions between the minister, the members of the Canadian Dairy Commission and the consultant committee responsible for advising the minister?

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, discussions did take place. I understand that they followed the correct procedure. They are following the agreement or the policy which we have signed with the provinces concerning the producers collecting a levy themselves for the export of their commodity. They have made representations to me. I am meeting the dairy farmers of Canada soon with regard to their request that the farmers of Canada are being asked to compete with the treasury of the European Community, and we will be in a better position to answer further at a later time.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Can I ask the minister whether he had some discussions with the leaders of the Federation of Industrial Milk Producers before taking that decision and if so, have the leaders of the federation accepted that new policy?