

ask the minister what provisions are to be made for financing on the part of those who seek to benefit from the program? The statement says that some \$350 per unit will be paid. Since it costs approximately \$900 to insulate a home, how is the home owner to procure the other \$550? Does the government intend to do as it did in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, guarantee the loans, or will it make arrangements with the provincial governments for them to guarantee the loans? What has the government in mind with respect to the disparity per home of between \$350 and \$900?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The utilization of government hot air.

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not agree with the figures mentioned by the hon. member. It is undeniable that the program we are putting forward for all Canada is not as generous as the program which has been going on in the two Maritime provinces for some months now. Besides, this program is an incentive to encourage people to insulate their homes, and we believe that the amount offered will generate enough response from the public to meet our objective.

[English]

HOME INSULATION PROGRAM—CONDITIONS TO BE MET BY PROVINCES PRIOR TO RECEIVING GRANTS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It should be noted that the two provinces with Liberal governments are to get more generous treatment than the other eight provinces. That will be of some interest.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: That will certainly help national unity.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): In the statement the two ministers issued they spoke of the conditions which participating provinces would have to meet—I will not read the list. I ask, will these grants be effective only when the provinces have put in place the lengthy program outlined in the statement? Since most of the required conditions will require legislation by provincial legislatures, does this mean that the program will not come into effect in the eight provinces of Canada until provincial legislation is passed, or will individuals be allowed to insulate their homes and be paid retroactively when provincial governments decide to participate?

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): The government is not sure.

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): In answer to the hon. member's question, I feel it is clear that the residents of those provinces will not benefit from this program before the provincial governments have approved the conditions put forward by my colleague the Minister of

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Energy, Mines and Resources and before he has discussed them with the provincial premiers or his provincial counterparts. I cannot accept the hon. member's point that legislation will be needed, for I am told that following those preliminary consultations with the provinces, the necessity to legislate has not been raised.

[English]

HOME INSULATION PROGRAM—APPLICABILITY OF PROGRAM TO RENTED PREMISES

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister is aware that, according to his own statement, the provinces will be required to remove the sales tax on insulating materials. I am not aware that any provincial government can do that without legislation. I ask, what provision is being made to insulate the homes of renters. I point out that 40 per cent of this country's residents are renters. In Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, 97 per cent of the grants went to owners, only 3 per cent to renters. There is no provision in the statement for providing assistance to renters to insulate their homes. I point out that renters are usually people with smaller incomes and need to conserve energy just as much as home owners. I ask, what provision does the minister intend to make for those who live in rented accommodation, provided the owner of that accommodation is agreeable to having the home insulated?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): In answer to the first part of the hon. member's question, I remind him simply that often, through the budget, a decision can be made which comes immediately into effect, without having to wait for the passage of a bill giving effect to such a budgetary decision. Furthermore, as to the hon. member's concern about tenants I can assure him that the eligibility requirements apply to resident owners, tenants and non resident owners and therefore, if he looks at the release, he will see that there are credits not only for private homes but also for apartment buildings which have not more than three floors.

[English]

HOME INSULATION PROGRAM—DELAY IN APPROVING APPLICATIONS IN NOVA SCOTIA—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the minister on the same matter? The program in effect in Nova Scotia apparently is fully endorsed by the public, but there are substantial delays in the approval of applications. I do not complain about the numbers of people submitting applications for assistance. Unfortunately, there are not enough on the staff to handle all applications coming forward. Could the minister assist the people of the area? Could he see to it that the office has a large enough staff to process applications, so that the work can be done before the fall when the people will want the insulation in place?