

*Oral Questions*

coming back to the House, and he will be pleased to go into considerable detail on any of the proposals made by Canada.

Suffice it to say that across the board our position has been, first, to press for cuts in terms of nuclear and conventional weapons and, second, to press for regimes of verification and control which would ensure that those treaties are met.

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**CORPORATE AFFAIRS****MASSEY COMBINES—CLEVELAND COMPANY'S PURCHASE OFFER**

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. It concerns the receivership of Massey Combines. It came to my attention over the weekend that a bid by Park Corporation of Cleveland, Ohio, to buy out Massey Combines in Brantford and run it as a self-contained agricultural implement manufacturing company was turned down by the receiver, Peat Marwick, in favour of a developer who will sell it off piecemeal.

● (1450)

In view of the fact that the federal Government and the provincial Government of Ontario have already put \$200 million of taxpayers' money into that bail-out, in view of the fact that there are 2,000 jobs at stake in Brantford, and in view of the fact that rotary combine technology was built by Canadian taxpayers here in Canada, is the Government going to sit back and allow Massey Combines to be taken over by a developer and sold off piecemeal when there is a corporation in Cleveland, Ohio, that will buy it and keep it operating in Brantford?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, this offer was referred to over the weekend by the Canadian Auto Workers. At this moment we are not in possession of the specifics of the offer. We are looking into it and we are quite prepared to follow through. The Government is certainly interested in retaining not only the jobs, but also the technology here in Canada. I have instructed my officials to follow through on the matter. As soon as we have some additional details or additional news, I will be very happy to give my hon. colleague the benefit of that information.

**REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT INTERVENE TO ENSURE ACCEPTANCE**

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the Minister is the following. Will he give the House an undertaking that if that offer to purchase by the company in Cleveland, Ohio, guarantees that Massey Combines Corporation will continue in Brantford to manufacture farm implements, the federal Government will intervene to

make certain that that bid is accepted in the interests not only of jobs, but of the company, and the \$200 million that has gone into bailing out Massey Combines?

Will the Government intervene to make certain that that company buys it?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, if the receiver receives an offer that ensures that the technology and jobs are maintained in Canada, I believe that that will meet the test of net benefit to Canada under the Investment Canada Act.

I am happy to see the support that I am receiving from my hon. colleague for this piece of legislation that might, once again in this case, ensure future jobs and maintain technology in Canada, in Brantford.

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**HOUSING****SITUATION IN TORONTO—REAL ESTATE SPECULATION TAX PROPOSAL**

**Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In the early 1970s the Davis Government ended a runaway inflation of real estate prices in Ontario by imposing a land speculation tax.

Since flipping residential property, often before a purchase has been closed, is a factor in the average house prices in Metro Toronto soaring from \$200,000 in February to \$233,000 now, will the Government consider incorporating a real estate speculation tax into the income tax system as a way of cooling this market off?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the suggestion of the Hon. Member, and certainly I will take that as a representation. The Hon. Member is clearly demonstrating concerns that others have had about the level of house prices in Metropolitan Toronto.

I might observe to him that, if there is any degree of excessive "flipping" of houses, to use his word, that type of activity could be treated as income rather than capital gain for tax purposes, and certainly the tax liability of the individual doing this type of thing might be quite a bit higher than is anticipated.

**LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR HOUSING**

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister responsible for housing. We have watched the Government give away money in the past weeks in this time of by-election and pre-election campaigning. What about the groups the Government has forgotten? I speak of low-income households, the homeless, and the near homeless.