

Oral Questions

appropriate to give him a breakdown of those funds at the time the legislation comes before the House, which should be in the immediate future.

REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, we were examining estimates at the time. I think that a breakdown of those estimates should be given as a matter of courtesy, and it is the responsibility of the minister to give them. I want to ask the minister what is he trying to hide. Where is he spending that money? Obviously, if he is asking for approval, he should be telling us where he is spending that money. What is the minister trying to hide?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Secretary of State): Madam Speaker, the hon. member is hard up for a question today. I am not trying to hide anything at all.

Mr. McDermid: You promised to get it for me for two months!

Mr. Regan: However, I will attempt to remedy the concern of the hon. member by giving him the statistics now, and in advance of the consideration of the bill, if he so wishes.

* * *

CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

RENEWAL OF MORTGAGES ON PREMISES INSULATED WITH UREA FORMALDEHYDE FOAM

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Madam Speaker, I would like to address my question through you to the minister responsible for CMHC. I would ask him to confirm press reports which state that CMHC will, in fact, renew any mortgages which it may hold on premises which have been insulated with the UFFI-type insulation.

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I had the opportunity to confirm that statement on an earlier occasion in this House. Of course CMHC, as the manager for the insurer of the mortgage holders, stands behind to insure those holders who provide insurance in the cases which the hon. gentleman has just mentioned.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Madam Speaker, that answer is as ambiguous or as lacking in definition as the press announcement which I read, and that is why I asked the question. The other day a constituent of mine approached me and stated that his friendly bank would not renew his mortgage. He asked how he could come under the CMHC mortgage system.

Will the government advise us what progress it has made in negotiations with other financial institutions which do undertake mortgages? Will the CMHC add, to its state of guaran-

tees, those mortgages of other institutions which are related to houses containing UFFI? Would the government not consider this to be a responsible move with regard to those householders who have now used a government-authorized material to build sickness chambers for themselves?

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, apart from the message in the last part of the question, I must admit that I do not follow the hon. gentleman's original question. He has some difficulty with the press release. If he would like some specifics on the position of the CMHC—

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): That's what he is asking for.

Mr. Cosgrove:—with regard to the press release, I would be happy to meet with the hon. gentlemen to explain it.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): The question is very simple, Madam Speaker. Will CMHC continue to guarantee its mortgages on premises which have been insulated with UFFI? Has the government had any success, and has it tried to have success when dealing with other financial institutions which may have mortgages on UFFI premises? Does the government feel it has any responsibility whatsoever with regard to this matter, either through the Crown corporation or by exerting pressure upon private financial institutions?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Simple. Now try it!

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I believe that I answered the first part of the question in direct response to the first question asked. Concerning the last question, the government has indicated its position through the position adopted by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, although the government has no legal responsibility. The government, in a humane way, has taken the responsibility on behalf of taxpayers of Canada, and has set aside over \$100 million to respond to the predicament of Canadians who are concerned about UFFI insulation in their homes.

DETAILS OF GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Madam Speaker, following up on my colleague's line of questioning, I would like to ask the minister responsible for housing a question. Where institutions other than CMHC have mortgaged premises with UFFI, we are concerned that our constituents are now finding that these lending institutions will not renew their mortgages. Therefore, Canadians who relied on the CMHC guarantee of this product now find that they cannot refinance their mortgages with the same institutions. Has the government taken any action to help these constituents, these mortgagors, who now find they cannot renew their mortgages?

Mr. McDermid: Now do you understand?