

review is now many months overdue, and because of the great implications that it will have for all future land claims settlements. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Shields):

That the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development act immediately to table the joint review of the implementation of the James Bay Agreement, and make a special reference to the Standing Committee of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to study the report.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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PENSIONS

CONDEMNATION OF GOVERNMENT'S BUDGETARY POLICY— MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Madam Speaker, I also rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. In view of the government's failure in last week's budget to relieve the financial crisis that most of Canada's senior citizens find themselves in as a result of inadequate retirement income policies, even after the much hyped National Pensions Conference held earlier this year, and in the absence of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), I move, seconded by the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent):

That this House condemn the government for ignoring the needs of senior citizens in last week's budget and for not raising retirement incomes to a level beyond poverty levels.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE BUDGET

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN ADVERTISEMENT ISSUED BY CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. I shall refer to a newspaper advertisement headed "Attention Home Owners" placed by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, over the name of the minister of housing. It provided details of the budget's housing interest and grant provisions, sent out the day before the budget to a number of newspapers by Vickers and Benson of Montreal. By admission of this agency to my office

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by telephone a few moments ago they stated that they were desperately trying to cancel the ad a day later by telegrams, after it had arrived camera-ready for printing at newspaper offices, and it actually had already been published in some papers by Friday noon, one of which I have here.

This is an obvious leak of budget material. Would the minister explain this sordid situation to the House of Commons?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I did not place the ad. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is not under my jurisdiction. If the hon. member wants me to make further inquiries, I would be glad to do so, but I cannot give him the information at the moment.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER CONDUCT INVESTIGATION

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Madam Speaker, is the Minister of Finance prepared to conduct a full investigation not only on that, but to have this referred to a parliamentary committee? If it is established that there has been a leak of the budget or of any of the provisions in the budget, is he prepared to stake his office and resign, which is the commendable and usual procedure? Is he prepared to do that?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I would be quite happy to make further inquiries. Maybe the hon. member would ask the minister of housing the question and the matter then could be cleared up quickly.

STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville): Madam Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the minister of housing. He stated, in reply to a question in this House last Tuesday that was asked by the hon. member for Simcoe North, that:

I do not know what will be in the budget on Thursday night.

Later he added:

—as the minister reporting to this House for Canada Mortgage and Housing, I do not know of the contents of the budget affecting housing.

In view of the advertisement which I have just mentioned, will the minister of housing tell the House whether he was misleading the House last Tuesday, and did he indeed know what the provisions were? Is he so weak in cabinet that the housing program was not known to him and was simply thrust into his hands afterwards? Finally, did he play a part in what is an obvious sordid leak in the budget?

● (1415)

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I learned generally of the provisions of the budget as they pertain to housing at a briefing of the cabinet by the Minister of Finance on Thursday afternoon. I learned specifically and saw the budget documents a few minutes before they