

in 1975 that we would get \$1 billion in financing for housing from the banks, but it turned out that we got only \$300 million.

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, in our negotiations with the lending institutions, I could say that while they have some reservations and a prudent and cautious approach to the proposal of the graduated payment mortgage, on the other hand their responses to our initiative on the low income housing proposal were very positive. The lenders responded positively to the federal initiative in this area and indicated a willingness to invest in social housing programs in support of provincial, municipal or private non-profit or co-operative associations.

We have received this assurance from the lending institutions, and therefore we believe that the provinces or the private non-profit or co-operative groups could get the money from the banks. We have indicated that, at any rate, the federal government could be there as a banker of last resort.

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[Translation]

#### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

##### LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL EQUITY

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right hon. Prime Minister. Given the fact that the Premier of Ontario has abdicated his responsibilities with respect to the linguistic situation, given the urgency there is to stop the galloping assimilation of the French-speaking minorities living in provinces with an English-speaking majority and, finally, in order to secure a federal leadership which will assure the existence of a united Canada which will respect the rights of all Canadians, can the right hon. Prime Minister tell the House whether he intends to table very soon the constitutional proposals he promised in the Speech from the Throne in order to enshrine in the Canadian Constitution, before it is too late, the fundamental rights in the field of linguistic equality and justice which will allow all Canadians to achieve their legitimate aspirations?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will remind the hon. member of what he surely already knows, and I mean that since 1969 at the least, the federal government has been making proposals to the provinces aimed at enshrining into the Constitution an unailing protection for the rights of the minorities, whether they are the French-speaking minorities in the rest of the country or the English-speaking minority in Quebec. Those proposals are to be reiterated and restated in the proposals the government will table before this House within a few weeks.

#### Oral Questions

[English]

#### INDUSTRY

##### AUTOMOTIVE PLANTS IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC

**Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can the minister advise the House of the proposals he and his officials have made to General Motors, Ford and others regarding the establishment of a new automobile assembly plant and a parts plant in Ontario and Quebec?

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, we have been over this one several times in the House. I have said repeatedly that when I have an announcement to make, I will be only too glad to make it. In our continuing negotiations with the Big Three auto manufacturers in North America, we hope we will be successful in landing a plant or two, or three for Canada. To date I have no announcement to make.

**Mr. Kempling:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm that this package of more than \$150 million is broken down into roughly \$50 million each for Ford and General Motors? Can he confirm that an amount of money is being offered to Chrysler for the refurbishing and renovating of the Tecumseh truck plant at Windsor, and tell us whether these proposals will require renegotiation of the auto pact between Canada and the United States?

**Mr. Horner:** Mr. Speaker, we know that Chrysler is interested in making substantial improvements and an expansion of their van plant at Windsor, but they have not really outlined a proposal to the federal government on which we could make a concrete offer to assist them in any way. We are talking to Chrysler, however, and when they determine exactly what their proposal for expansion will be, then we will sit down and see how we can best assist them.

We are always willing to assist the expansion of industry within Canada. We are at the service of the Big Three and we have notified them. I really do not know where the hon. member got the figures he has quoted.

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#### HEALTH AND WELFARE

##### DISPOSITION OF SOCIAL SERVICES LEGISLATION

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The hon. lady is aware of the extended visit to Canada recently of Dr. Paul Dolfus, chairman of the international commission on technical aids, housing and transportation for the handicapped. His purpose is to promote the rehabilitation international congress in Winnipeg in 1980.

In view of the importance and the urgency of the minister's new social services legislation, and the necessity of having it on the statute books as part of the preparation of the congress in