

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister of Labour. Can he tell us if he intends to set up a special Commons committee to study Canada-U.S. relations to implement a recommendation made yesterday by the C.N.T.U. which favours such an undertaking?

[Text]

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I did want to let members of the government hear representations from the labour organizations in question, and one proposal to which my hon. friend refers is a matter outside the scope of the Department of Labour.

HOUSING**VANCOUVER—REQUEST THAT MINISTER VISIT VETERANS PROJECT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Arnold Webster (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue. When does the minister plan to visit Vancouver to inspect the veterans Fraserview housing project in order to make a personal study of their current grievances?

Hon. J. R. Garland (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his intention to ask this question. He will perhaps recall that I dealt with the representations from the Fraserview home owners and tenants association in some detail in my answer to question No. 1728, asked by the hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Scott), in *Hansard* of December 4 last. In the intervening period an independent accredited appraiser has been engaged by the corporation in order to appraise each type of house in the Fraserview project. I am advised this work is now completed and that a report, with recommendations, is expected within the next few days.

It is my intention to review the matter fully with officials of the corporation, and I would hope to be able to report the particulars of any final decision to the hon. member shortly.

I would remind him I have a competent staff of officials in the corporation which keeps me fully informed on these matters, including the views of the tenants, and I can see no useful purpose in my travelling to Vancouver at this time.

REQUEST FOR FINANCING OF EXISTING HOMES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou): I wish to direct a short question to the Minister of National Revenue. Could the minister advise the house if the proposed amendments to the National Housing Act include the provision of funds for older homes, a policy to which the

[Mr. Rondeau.]

hon. gentleman subscribed when he was sitting on this side of the house?

Hon. J. R. Garland (Minister of National Revenue): I am sure the hon. gentleman fully appreciates the fact that we cannot discuss the details of a bill before it is brought before the house.

VETERANS AFFAIRS**POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF HOSPITALS FROM FEDERAL CONTROL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. Chester MacRae (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Veterans Affairs which is based on statements made yesterday by his deputy minister and also his assistant deputy minister, concerning veterans hospitals. Would the minister advise the house, and especially the one million veterans of this country, the intention of the government regarding the transfer of the Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals from federal to provincial or local control?

Hon. Roger Teillet (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, because of the general shortage of hospital beds throughout the country we have had several proposals from a number of authorities, provincial, municipal and university, to assist in the solution of this problem. I think all hon. members will realize the inherent difficulties in these proposals. However, we are very seriously examining them with a view to assisting wherever and whenever we can. I do want to say this here, as I stated last year; that in assessing these proposals the principles outlined then will be very much in our minds, and these include the interests of the veterans, the standards of treatment, and the protection of the staff. These will be very much in our minds as we study the position. We are not yet in a position to reach any conclusion. As soon as we are, we shall inform the house.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Does this policy apply to the Colonel Belcher hospital in Calgary? There were some press reports that a decision had already been reached with regard to that hospital.

Mr. Teillet: I can assure the hon. member that no decision has been taken. However, we are examining a proposal received from the city of Calgary.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): In dealing with this question is the minister taking into account the recommendation of the veterans affairs committee that before any decisions are made in this respect the veterans organizations should be consulted?

Mr. Teillet: Yes, Mr. Speaker.