

Oral Questions

Mr. Leggatt: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the minister will want to canvass his answer with Mr. Rudnicki who is seeking employment with the federal public service. In view of the very serious charge Mr. Rudnicki makes, that there is a blacklist of public servants which has been circulated among Liberal ministers and which is officially called the extra parliamentary opposition, will the minister advise if in the area of his responsibilities he is aware of such list. If he is not will he give to this House an undertaking that he will investigate these most serious charges which Mr. Rudnicki has been making?

An hon. Member: And let's have no blarney.

Mr. Danson: Mr. Speaker, this certainly is a very serious charge which the hon. member makes. Fortunately, it is without any foundation.

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PUBLIC SERVICE**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON CHARGES MADE BY MR. RUDNICKI**

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister? In view of the question just asked by my colleague from New Westminster, will the Prime Minister tell the House if he will take the first opportunity available to make a statement in the House answering some of the serious charges made both by Mr. Rudnicki and a judge of the Supreme Court of Ontario, in order to relieve the anxieties created across this country, anxieties developing from some of the improprieties implied in the judgment and involving some ministers and senior civil servants?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will look into the matter. I am not aware of those charges. I just heard them alluded to by way of rumour just now by hon. members opposite.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): There is a supreme court judgment.

Mr. Fairweather: It's a supreme court rumour.

An hon. Member: You missed that judge.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, as the House knows, I don't speak to judges. They may have opinions on the conduct of governments which, if they are not on the matter of legality or illegality, I might consider irrelevant.

[Mr. Danson.]

HOUSING**POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF NEW PROGRAMS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF MORTGAGE CORPORATION**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. My question is prompted by a statement released by the Canadian Council on Social Development identifying six Canadian cities in which the percentage of people able to buy affordable housing has declined, notwithstanding the success of the minister's AHOP program; it is also prompted by the government's failure to identify new programs in the Speech from the Throne. Does the minister intend to introduce new legislation this session and does he intend to press for the implementation of legislation to set up the Canadian mortgage corporation?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, our present programs are working effectively, although in some areas we want to see them working even more effectively. Housing starts, as hon. members know, are close to record highs for this year, but that does not relieve our concern for the future and for people in low income groups still experiencing difficulty. We are tailoring our programs, not through new legislation but through the application of existing programs, in such a way as to make certain to the best of our ability that housing is available to them.

The Federal Mortgage Exchange Corporation is in the province of my colleague, the Minister of Finance. From my viewpoint the activation of that organization, in so far as my portfolio is concerned, is not necessary. We are getting all the mortgage funding required at present. We are getting more than we asked for, more than some sceptical people thought we would get. It looks as if the amount of \$1 billion we hoped to get from the private sector will exceed \$1.5 billion this year, for our programs.

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URBAN AFFAIRS**TAX SHARING WITH MUNICIPALITIES IN VIEW OF FAILURE OF TRI-LEVEL CONFERENCE**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the government's failure to obtain the agreement of the provinces for a tri-level conference to discuss the serious questions of fiscal and tax-sharing arrangements with the municipalities, I ask the minister, in view of his failure to bring about this conference, what course he intends to pursue since the problems of our cities are continuing?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that does not mean we are not concerned about the problems of our cities. It means that provinces did not see fit to sit down with the municipalities and the federal government to discuss the report of the task force on public finance. Much information has been gained by that task force and