

[English]

I will then recognize the hon. member for Wellington. Hon. members will appreciate that after all these minutes we are still on the first subject, the very first question. After the hon. member for Wellington I will see the hon. member for York South on the second question.

[Translation]

Mr. Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, because the Canadian Cattlemen's Association was opposed to government intervention in the marketing of beef, and considering increased costs to turkeys producers as a result of the higher cost of grains in the Prairies, might the Minister of Agriculture consider the possibility of intervening with turkey producers with a view to bringing prices back in line with production costs?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the turkey producers of Canada are organized under a national marketing agency and it is much easier to assist them through an organization of that type. We have met with them and we are discussing the request they have made. To be really honest, this is one of the problems we are running into in the beef program. There is no real organization, so beef is marketed in every way one can imagine.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me we have strayed from beef to turkeys. We might get back to beef for a last supplementary, after which the Chair will recognize the hon. member for York South.

SUBSIDY TO BEEF PRODUCERS—CHECKING BY AUDITORS TO PREVENT IMPROPER PAYMENTS

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the extreme difficulty of administering the beef subsidy and in view of the fact that speculators could conceivably get two subsidy payments, has the minister alerted the audit services and Auditor General to be on the lookout for the discrepancies that are bound to occur?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): We are well aware that what the hon. member has suggested could possibly happen. If we can devise regulations to cover such situations we shall do so, though we think such cases are not likely to be frequent. We are aware of what might happen. I am sure the same person called me as called the hon. member to point this out.

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HOUSING

HALIFAX—CENTENNIAL PROPERTIES APARTMENT PROJECT—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION—AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS TO CO-OPERATIVE INSTEAD

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question on another subject for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs arising out of a proposal by Centennial Properties Limited in Halifax to build apartment housing known as the Quinpool Road project. Even though this

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question refers to a specific project in a particular city, it has general national application. In view of the fact that the rental price to be charged is about \$340 a month on the average, and in view of the fact that this particular corporation was severely criticized in the Charney report in connection with its previous work, may I ask the minister whether he has looked into the matter? I did give his office notice about this question yesterday. May I also ask him whether Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation will give the necessary loan guarantees which this not very desirable firm is seeking?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): I appreciate the hon. member having given me notice of the question. Apparently the project has been given a building permit by the city of Halifax and the issuance thereof has been supported by the province of British Columbia.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Basford: That just shows that British Columbia is constantly on my mind.

The information in the possession of CMHC with regard to the application made to it is in such a preliminary form at the moment that the corporation is not able to form any view about a recommendation to me on the matter, but I will give the hon. member further information when it is available from our Halifax office.

Mr. Lewis: I would be very happy if it were only British Columbia which was on the minister's mind. I sometimes think it is the Rocky Mountains, which would be much more serious. In view of the fact that considerable objection to this project has been raised by citizens and that some people are trying to create a co-operative housing organization for the purpose of building the same number of dwelling units as is proposed by Centennial Properties Limited, may I ask the minister whether he will look into this application seriously and inquire into this attempt by citizens to form a co-operative housing association for this purpose? I make this request particularly in view of the hon. gentleman's statement to the Canadian Labour Congress about his desire to see co-operative development—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Basford: I do not see the two applications as being competing applications at all. If there is a group in Halifax—I must admit I have not yet heard of it—wishing to organize a co-operative housing group, it will have the full benefit of the National Housing Act and of the budget that supports the co-operative housing program. We are anxious to approve all applications, not just some of them.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for York South but I seek the co-operation of hon. members in limiting the number of supplementaries so that we may move on a little faster between now and the end of the question period.

Mr. Lewis: I do want to put this supplementary to the minister. It arises out of information I have that the