

statement from the Governor of the Bank of Canada that there is in fact an open race going on among these income groups for larger increases in money incomes, and the race is occurring in a period in which no increase in average real income per capita is being achieved and none of the participants can gain except at the expense of others, and in view of the minister's continual failure to issue guidelines or to intervene officially to ensure that there will be more restraint in income demands,—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Stevens:—would the minister indicate if he has hesitated to act as he has been told by certain of these organized income groups to not interfere?

An hon. Member: What is the question?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I have read that particular passage in the Governor's report.

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PUBLIC WORKS

POSSIBILITY DREDGING WORK BEING DONE BY UNITED STATES OR PUBLICLY OWNED COMPANIES—NUMBER OF JOBS LOST

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo-Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Public Works and ask him, in view of the statement last night by the minister that he is considering inviting bids from U.S. dredging companies as well as considering some form of public ownership, whether he can tell the House how far he has gone in his negotiations with U.S. firms and to what extent has the department examined the public ownership options?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, there have been no negotiations with any U.S. firms, and the advisability of the public ownership of certain operations, the pros and cons, is under continual review, not only in the dredging field but also in many others.

● (1420)

Mr. Saltsman: I have a supplementary for the same minister. Has the minister calculated the loss in Canadian jobs if the dredging contract is let to United States firms as against keeping these jobs in Canada, under either a department of his ministry or under a Crown corporation?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I might say that this is one of the few things which tempts us to try to work out arrangements with certain existing Canadian firms, in spite of the difficulties in which they now find themselves.

Presence in Gallery

[Translation]

HOUSING

INABILITY OF MOBILE HOME OWNERS TO OBTAIN \$500 GRANT BECAUSE OF LEASE PERIOD—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. My question deals with the new \$500 grant to purchasers of new homes.

Is the minister aware that 90 per cent of buyers of mobile homes cannot obtain the grant because they do not have five-year leases on their lots? If so, does he intend to take the necessary steps to make new owners eligible for that grant?

[English]

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the situation with reference to mobile home owners. The basic reason we have set a five year land lease is to make certain that it is a permanent residence. I want to look at the nature of those land leases and also those people who move on a fairly regular basis due to the mobility of their jobs. This came up before the parliamentary committee, and the president of CMHC and I will be looking into this.

[Translation]

Mr. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. I would like to ask the minister whether he intends to study the contract specifically, because he will see that 90 per cent of owners have only one-year leases.

[English]

Mr. Danson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I understand that, and I will be looking at that contractual arrangement.

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. I should like to ask the Minister of State for Urban Affairs whether he is concerned about the problems of farmers who leave their farms because they have become non-profitable for lack of income owing to our agricultural policy. Farmers who build a house for the first time are not entitled to the \$500 grant because they were producers, they already had houses on their farms, and they own only one house now. Can the minister assure the House that he will look into the possibility of helping those farmers who leave their farms to settle in the cities and benefit from the \$500 grant?

[English]

Mr. Danson: Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can look after these people in a very positive way through our Assisted Home Ownership Plan.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN SPEAKER'S GALLERY OF GENERAL ALEXANDER M. HAIG JR., SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER IN EUROPE, AND MISS KAREN MAGNUSSEN

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Before beginning the second round of questioning, may I take a moment to draw to the