

Oral Questions

Mr. Blenkarn: Mr. Speaker, since I cannot get anywhere with the minister and since he does not seem to understand that there is speculation, may I ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that a great deal of the problem is caused by lending institutions financing mortgages or loans on vacant land where the vacant land cost is more than one-third the value of the land and building together? Will the Prime Minister use his influence with the lending institutions to get them to control the speculation in land that is taking place so that the price of housing, at least to some extent, will be controlled against such speculation?

● (1150)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to pass on the recommendation to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hastings.

Mr. Blenkarn: A supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Hastings who has been trying to ask a question for a few days. Perhaps he should be given the opportunity. I will recognize the hon. member afterwards for a supplementary, but I would hope hon. members would limit supplementaries in order that we may satisfy as many questioners as possible this morning.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REASON FOR INSTALLATION OF HEAVY DUTY LOCK AT BELLEVILLE REGIONAL PAY CENTRE

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister responsible for the Unemployment Insurance Commission. In light of the comment by the hon. member for Verdun yesterday that information flows freely from the Unemployment Insurance Commission, will the minister tell me why he found it necessary to instal a special extra strong and heavy duty lock at the Belleville Regional Pay Centre worth over \$600, and has he found it necessary to do this at all other centres?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, until I read the hon. member's speech in *Hansard* a few minutes ago I was not aware of the installation of this lock. That is a matter for the administration of the commission. I have confidence in the judgment of the commission and I would assume it was done for a very good reason. Perhaps the hon. member could give a better reason than I could, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Mississauga and will then recognize the hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway.

[Mr. Basford.]

HOUSING

METROPOLITAN TORONTO—ACTION TO CURB SPECULATION AND GOUGING

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga): Mr. Speaker, my question is again directed to the Prime Minister. I am afraid he does not understand that the Minister of State for Urban Affairs is concerned only about social housing and does not think about the ordinary guy who wants to buy a house.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has been recognized in order to ask a supplementary. Perhaps he might "streak" to the point.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Blenkarn: Is the Prime Minister aware that the increase in the supply of credit by the banking system, finance companies and mortgage companies is financing speculation in private housing? It has nothing to do with the Minister of State for Urban Affairs and his responsibilities. It is the Prime Minister's responsibility to govern the credit institutions.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway.

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HEALTH

RECALL OF REGENT CHOCOLATE COMPANY PRODUCTS

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the Department of National Health and Welfare uncovered any recent additional quantities of chocolates produced by the Regent company of Saint-Hyacinthe that are contaminated by Salmonella? If so, is the department ordering the immediate recall of these chocolates?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, all the chocolate produced by Regent has been recalled and production has stopped.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): For the protection of the public, will the government immediately publish the names of firms and retail outlets selling these chocolates, and the brand names under which they are being sold?

Mr. Lalonde: As I have said, we have published the brand names of those—

[*Translation*]

We published the names of the products sold by Regent Chocolates Ltd. and all its other products were also recalled. In the next issue of the bulletin *Rx*, a list of the contaminated products will be published.

[*English*]

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Is this recall purely voluntary or is it an order by the department?