support, pick up the difference or the loss that would be suffered as a result of the proposed ban?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Madam Speaker, I have to repeat to the Hon. Member that I have not received notice of this question. I apologize to him. I am not in a position to answer it. I do not even understand exactly what he means. If he will be kind enough to advise me at the door and give me more information on the case, I shall be pleased to get the information from him.

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HOUSING

MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT RESPECTING $3,000 GRANT PROGRAM

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. If a senior member of his Cabinet announced in the House an extension of a major program to stimulate the housing industry, assist the forest industry, and enable people to afford a new home, and then, only 13 days later, had to announce in the House that this program was no longer in effect, would he not have to admit that the people of Canada were misled, deceived, or perhaps even duped?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Minister already answered the question yesterday, and I think he indicated that, although the program was terminated, he would assess the degree to which people were led to have false expectations. I know insofar as the text of the budget itself is concerned, the Minister added another $30 million, and that is it. When the $30 million is expired there is no more money.

• (1440)

Mr. Nielsen: That is not what was said yesterday.

Mr. Trudeau: People may have assumed that the program would go on for a long time; but that is not what the Minister of Finance promised. What the Minister responsible for CMHC said to the House yesterday was that the program was finished, that he would try to assess the extent of the problem and see how he could solve it. Perhaps he can solve it with the money already available, which makes the question hypothetical. If not, we will hear from the Minister as to what other resources he might have access to, but that is a hypothetical situation. The Minister is still in the process of examining the size of the problem and the extent to which it exists.

Mr. Riis: Madam Speaker, perhaps the reason many Canadians assumed that the program would be available is that the Minister of Finance, in his budget statement, said that he was "allocating $30 million more to the Canadian Home Ownership Stimulation Plan, which should be sufficient to extend this program until about the end of May". There is no way the people of Canada could be convinced that May 6 is the end of May.

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. Considering there are tens of thousands of Canadians who listened to the Minister of Finance very carefully on budget night and had assumed that if they were to put in foundations toward the end of May they would receive compensation, would the Minister make a statement in the House today as to when the people of Canada would have a definitive word from the Minister regarding funds available for an extension of the program?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, following questions and representations from the Hon. Member's own Party—all Parties, in fact—I indicated that we would try to find ways to accommodate those who live in isolated or northern areas. It was very much in their name that I requested the program be prolonged beyond the end of April. But in all cases, in October when the Minister of Finance announced the $100 million, and on the night of the budget when he announced the $30 million, the Minister of Finance made the situation very clear. I informed the building industry in late March or early April that this was a program that was being administered by what is called "to budget" and not to a fixed date. That is wording everyone in the industry understands. In fact I suspect that this may explain a good part of the rush that we saw in April.

I said yesterday that we were having an assessment made of the size of the problem, not because we cannot count numbers of paper applications, but because an application is certified as valid and to be honoured when the inspection takes place and the footings are examined by inspectors. This is a long process, but I expect that by the middle of next week I will be in a position to advise what route to take. Again, I hope very much that we will not have major disappointments. We were trying to encourage the housing industry. This we have done. We were trying to help Canadians obtain homes. This has been successful to the tune of over three quarters of a billion dollars.

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[*Translation*]

INDUSTRY

REASONS WHY CORPORATIONS AVOID LOCATING IN QUEBEC

Mr. Claude Tessier (Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead): Madam Speaker, I could put my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce or the Minister of Transport, but as it concerns mostly the Quebec Government, I shall address it to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. PQ MNAs are now writing us to ask that we ensure the development of the aeronautics industry in Quebec, and they refer specifically to