

Oral Questions

Mr. Clark: Read your budget. Maybe you missed the last two pages of the budget.

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WORLD ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS**QUERY RESPECTING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Madam Speaker, I wanted to address my question to the Secretary of State, but he is not here. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and his parliamentary secretary are not here. I would like to address my question to anybody in the government who might be able to answer it. It is an important question, and time is running out.

My question concerns the type of government support that will be made available to the World Assembly of First Nations which will be held in Regina next month. This Assembly will attract indigenous people from all over the world. Thousands of people are expected to attend this event. Entertainers, and the international press will be there. On March 9, I wrote to the Prime Minister asking what type of support the assembly will be receiving from the federal government, but as yet I have not received a response. It is important that we are informed, because many people will be coming to Regina. There is a shortage of facilities in Regina. The organizers need some assistance from the government. Is the government prepared to say at this time whether it will be supporting the assembly?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, the decision taken on that matter by the government is that the Assembly should be supported out of the regular budgets and existing programs of the various ministries. I can inform the hon. member, for example, that the RCMP has been invited to play a support role at that Assembly and that the force is delighted to do so.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Madam Speaker, it is good to know that the government is willing to provide assistance in the form of RCMP officers, but is the government also willing to make assistance available in the form of providing accommodation, food, and health services to the 25,000 or 30,000 people who are expected to descend upon Regina next month? It is good to have police there if problems do arise, but what about some assistance to prevent problems from occurring?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, the police role to which I refer is not one of crowd control. It is participation in the event. The RCMP will be doing that because it was requested to do so.

With respect to the larger question, the support that will be forthcoming from the government will be limited to that which

can be provided by departments out of existing budgets and existing programs.

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HOUSING**MINISTER'S POSITION**

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. What words of encouragement and what hope can the minister give young people in Canada who wish to own their own homes?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, when young people in Canada address inquiries to me directly, I will be pleased to respond, but I will not attempt to provide advice and responses through the hon. member. He has a responsibility also to provide whatever advice he is asked for.

Mr. Lawrence: Our advice is for you to get out.

PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTIBILITY PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, the minister knows very well downpayments are not the problem. The problem is carrying charges. The minister will be making a financial statement. Is he considering a mortgage interest and property tax deductibility program to get the construction industry out of the doldrums it is in today?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, if the hon. member is referring to the mortgage and tax deductibility program introduced in this House by my predecessor, I think the answer quite clearly is no.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Only in Saskatchewan you say.

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AIRPORTS**USE OF MIRABEL FOR ATLANTIC CANADA ROUTES—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. I would like to know if he is still planning to divert flights which might affect Atlantic Canada or travellers to and from Atlantic Canada to Mirabel and, if so, has he consulted the various ministers of transport, the Atlantic Provinces Transportation Commission, the chambers of commerce of Atlantic Canada, or any others who might give advice on this matter respecting the cost and difficulty involved in any such transfers of flights?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I know my hon. friends opposite try these days to