

Oral Questions

respect of housing loans in areas with septic tanks only, namely, small villages and towns? The minister is well aware that we do not have a long season in the northern part of Canada, and I hope he has something concrete to offer.

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I thought I gave a concrete answer the other day. I apologize to the hon. member. I believe I indicated to him in the House at that time that details would be in members' offices within the next day or so. I find that because of the problem of getting the regulations to the regional offices across the country, this information will not be in the hands of members until some time later this week. However, the regulations are being relaxed on a flexible basis, giving more flexibility to the regional managers. We are also co-ordinating, with the provinces, a comprehensive program so that the sometimes arbitrary restrictions, where they do occur, will be removed.

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POST OFFICE

ADVERTISEMENT RESPECTING USE OF POSTAL CODE

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. I have here an ad which appeared in the Toronto Men's Press Club publication, *Byliner*. This ad shows a bare-bottomed woman in a string bikini mailing a letter, with an old man painting the postal code on her rear end. The ad bears the following inscription:

We're not "stringing" you along
Use postal codes—you'll "thing" our "thong"
Don't be cheeky—you've all got 'em
Please include them on the bottom

This ad carried the logo and official sponsorship of Canada Post. In view of the blatant sexism of this ad and the insult to Canadian women, indeed to all Canadians, and in view of the fact that it is the Canadian taxpayers who will be called upon to pay for this sexist garbage, will the minister assure the House that those responsible in the Post Office for approving this ad will now also be held responsible for the payment of the cost of the ad and no government payment will be made?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that I found this ad offensive. I consider it an insult to the women of Canada. I expressed this opinion rather forcibly in the Post Office some months ago. If the hon. member looks at the date of the ad, he will see that it was published some time ago. The ad will be paid for by the Post Office, but I apologize on behalf of those who inserted it in the press club publication in Toronto several months ago.

[Mr. Darling.]

STATUS OF WOMEN

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR—POLICY TO AVOID SEXISM AND DISCRIMINATION IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): My supplementary is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Will the minister inform the House whether he has circulated a memo of government policy, with respect to the government's position on sexism and discrimination, to all other government departments, particularly as this is International Women's Year? If not, will he now do so, to prevent ads of this nature in the future?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Postmaster General's reply demonstrates very clearly that my colleagues are fully aware of this situation and that they need no memo from me to remind them of the necessity to respect women in Canada.

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[English]

FINANCE

MINISTER'S INSTRUCTIONS TO INFLATION CONSULTATION SECRETARIAT REGARDING BUDGET

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance I will direct my question to his parliamentary secretary. Is the parliamentary secretary aware of the work being done by the minister's inflation consultation secretariat?

Mr. Jack Cullen (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): No, I am not, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Gillies: I will direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. Is he aware of the work being done by the Minister of Finance's special inflation consultation secretariat?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Perhaps the hon. member will ask his supplementary question first and I may be able to answer that.

Mr. Gillies: Is it true that the minister's special inflation consultation secretariat has been instructed to spend most of their efforts at the present time preparing an anti-inflationary policy to be contained in a fall budget?

Mr. Sharp: I am very glad the hon. member asked the second question first. No, Mr. Speaker, I have not heard of any such thing.

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GRAIN

DELAYS EXPERIENCED BY ELEVATORS IN RECEIVING BOXCARS FOR DELIVERIES

Mr. Craig Stewart (Marquette): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. As many grain elevators located on branch