Oral Questions

from working. Can the minister indicate what programs the government has to ensure that these people can find enough work so that they can go back to school this fall?

Mr. MacEachen: Madam Speaker, I would have thought the hon. member was aware that the Minister of Employment and Immigration has already announced a job-creation program, and that within his plans there is room for a very large number of employment opportunities for summer students.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY OF AUSTRALIA

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I would like to draw the attention of hon. members to the presence in our gallery of the Hon. Peter Nixon, Minister of Primary Industry for Australia.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

HOUSING

MEASURES TO INCREASE STARTS AND CREATE JOBS

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works, who is responsible for housing. According to CMHC, housing starts are over 100,000 behind what CMHC says are required for Canadians in 1980. This translates into a loss of over 100,000 jobs both in the housing industry and in related industries. When is the government going to act on this crisis and start to provide incentives which would then produce jobs and homes for Canadians?

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, as I indicated in answer to a similar question yesterday in the House, it is my belief, and the belief of the corporation officials, that those figures for the month of May reflected the high interest rates of earlier in the year. It is our anticipation that they will pick up, with interest rates having been adjusted.

I would say that the Minister of Finance should take full credit for not having overreacted to requests for the spending of billions and billions of dollars in response to that temporary adjustment. In addition, I indicated that before the end of the month the government will be responding modestly to improve some of the programs designed to bring relief to all classes of people in the industry.

Mr. Lewis: Madam Speaker, perhaps the minister is going to change the construction season in Canada, because by the time he gets it out, it will be half over.

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Lewis: Does the government not sense the urgency in the fact that the season is half over before it has put out any program?

Mr. Cosgrove: Madam Speaker, the government indeed recognizes, for example, that there is a backlog in the demands for more starts and the number of programs which are already in place administratively by the government. We know there are people waiting and ready to take up starts which are released. I expect in the two programs which will be announced before the end of the month that there are clients and people ready and willing to start building almost immediately.

AIR TRANSPORT

ENGINE FAILURES ON AIR CANADA AIRCRAFT—STUDY ON AIR SAFETY

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. It is with regard further to Air Canada's 747 problem with engine failure last Saturday.

In light of statements from Air Canada that there is a very serious idling problem with its 747s, and the statement from the Canadian Air Traffic Controllers' Association that the pilot involved in the 747 incident Saturday should not have taken out another flight the same night, will the minister expand the terms of reference of Justice Dubin to include these near-fatal accidents within the context of the study on air safety the justice is currently undertaking?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I have an answer to the first part of the question at least. The event in London is not considered to be an accident. I am told that in cases like this, in which the aircraft is not involved in an accident as defined in the regulations, there is no requirement for the crew members not to conduct a further planned flight. So this was not an accident. This was considered to be a mishap of some kind, but the normal procedure is for the pilot to continue.

With respect to the relationship between that and the inquiry conducted by Judge Dubin, my information is that the judge is taking a very wide approach to security in the air and will want to make recommendations on a very wide plane.

Mr. McKenzie: Madam Speaker, if that fourth engine had failed, I point out to the minister that there would have been a fourth accident. They were very fortunate.

In view of the fact that Transport Canada inspectors have stated before Justice Dubin's inquiry that it is impossible for Transport Canada to determine whether Canadian aircraft are airworthy as, and I quote, "they are being muzzled by their supervisors", has the minister taken action to correct this situation and to ease the minds of members of the travelling public, or will we have to wait for Justice Dubin's report in