

been chastised legitimately, I respectfully say, for a lack of discipline or because of the inability of members like myself to verbalize their questions. But I respectfully suggest to Your Honour that if members of the cabinet sitting across the way are not prepared to co-operate with members of the House by answering questions and giving evidence that it is the responsibility of members on this side to seek in trying to hold the government accountable, then we have lost the last bit of control we have. The only control the Canadian people have left is that exercised by the opposition during the question period. We have lost control in committees and we have lost control in respect of supply.

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Lundrigan: The only control we have in respect of holding the government accountable is the question period.

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Lundrigan: Members of the government are not being responsible when they sit sulking and refuse to answer questions by hon. members on this side.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. For the third time I call the hon. member to order. I recognize the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby.

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HOUSING

SHELTER COST INCREASE—REQUEST THAT MORE FUNDS BE ALLOCATED TO LOW-INCOME HOUSING—REALLOCATION TO CO-OPERATIVE PROJECTS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, before I ask my serious question, may I suggest—

Some hon. Members: Order!

An hon. Member: Ask the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I appreciate the hon. member's willingness to assist the Chair by making suggestions, but perhaps he could assist the Chair even more effectively by asking his question at this time.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I was going to propose a 90-day freeze on questions of privilege but I will not do so.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs and relates to the increase of 6.8 per cent announced today in the cost of shelter in Canada. In view of this fact and the related fact that only 20 per cent of CMHC's capital budget is intended for low-income housing, will the minister consult in the next few days with the other two ministers responsible for

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that budget to see if there can be a significant increase in the allocation of money for low-income housing?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hon. member's support for low-income housing, but there must be some error in his figures. The capital commitment budget for 1973 for CMHC is 20 per cent over what it was last year, and over 80 per cent of the units we are building or financing this year will be in the category of low-income housing, in view of the hon. members' earlier intervention, and I know he is concerned about the level of expenditure in respect of co-operative and other forms of low-income housing, I will certainly give him an undertaking to meet the requests of the co-operative movement in respect of lending under the CMHC program.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the \$2 million the minister has allocated for co-op housing which, on his own admission last night, would account for the construction of only about 100 units or one co-operative building, and in view of the fact the co-op societies in Canada have estimated their needs for this year to be \$30 million in anticipated demand, will he assure the House now that he will reallocate sums to meet that anticipated demand of some \$30 million?

Mr. Basford: I have grave doubts, Mr. Speaker, that the co-operative movement will be able to make loan applications to the extent of \$30 million for the year 1973. Should they do so within the provisions of the act, I am quite sure I can reallocate money from somewhere to meet that request for \$30 million.

Mr. Broadbent: A supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member may ask a last supplementary question, after which I will recognize the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham and then the hon. member for Calgary North.

REQUEST THAT BANK ACT BE AMENDED TO COMPEL BANKS TO SET ASIDE PORTION OF INVESTMENTS FOR HOUSING AT SIX PER CENT INTEREST

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact the income of the average borrower under the National Housing Act is well above the average family income in Canada, will the minister take action by changing the Bank Act to make it mandatory that the banks of Canada set aside on an annual basis a certain percentage of their total investment for housing at an interest rate not exceeding 6 per cent?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the legislation introduced by my colleague, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, will go a long way toward meeting that particular problem.