

Oral Questions

member for Ontario who said that his government has been notably stupid in its housing policies—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: She is after your job, Barney.

Miss MacDonald: This is something which we on this side of the House have been stating for many months. Will the minister say when the proposed meeting with the provincial housing ministers will take place and whether the agenda will include proposals to increase the supply of serviced land, as promised in the white paper, as well as methods by which the abnormally high interest rate will be reduced?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, without accepting the preamble to the question at this time when we are making quite incredible progress, which a couple of months ago we would not have thought possible, when the percentage of low and modestly priced housing has increased by some 50 per cent this year and when our housing starts are close to double the rate of our neighbour to the south, let me answer the question by stating that I am not quite certain about the proposed meeting of the housing ministers to which the hon. member has referred. We are in continuous contact, and I am always pleased to meet with the housing ministers when it is felt that is necessary. Quite frankly, I am in touch with their offices at the present time to see if a meeting is necessary at this time, as suggested by the new housing minister for Ontario. It is possible that such a meeting will take place, but the idea does not appear to have unanimous acceptance. If it is necessary, we will meet at any time with the provincial housing ministers.

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AGRICULTURE**POSITION OF OFFICIAL OPPOSITION ON AID TO COW-CALF OPERATORS**

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture I would address my question to the acting minister. Will he please inform the minister that the official opposition to Her Majesty's government in this House is in favour of the Agricultural Stabilization Act terms being carried out in connection with the cow-calf floor price. The government promised this in the middle of September, and I am simply responding to the minister's challenge in his reply to the hon. member for Vegreville yesterday, by stating that the official opposition wants to see the terms of the act carried out, including the cost of production formula added in.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS**DATE OF TABLING BAYDA REPORT AND IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, over a year ago Mr. Justice Bayda was appointed as com-
[Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands).]

missioner to examine all aspects of grain handling through the port of Vancouver and to make recommendations to alleviate and improve the situation. As the government has now had Mr. Justice Bayda's report for some considerable time, can the Minister of Labour advise the House when this report will be tabled and when the government will bring forward measures to deal with this most serious and important matter?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would anticipate that the report will be tabled in the House within the next week. During this time we have been looking for certain people to assume certain responsibilities under the report and I hope to name those people at the same time I table it.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER**SUGGESTED INCREASE IN FUNDS FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM**

Mr. T. Lefebvre (Pontiac): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration relating to Local Initiatives Programs.

Is the minister aware that for the Pontiac riding the budget is about \$716,000 whereas the requests are for \$4,340,000, since 122 acceptable projects are under study? I am told that the available funds cover only 34 of those projects, leaving aside 88 others. Since the large number of project proposals shows not only the interest of the people from Pontiac in that program but above all the great needs of my riding, could the minister give—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is an excellent and very important representation, but not a question.

Mr. Lefebvre: Here is my question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister tell the House if another study will be made to allocate extra funds to those areas where great need exists?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think I would lead the House astray if I indicated any likelihood of additional funds in this area for this year. I am sympathetic toward the representations and concerns of this hon. member and others. Let me give an indication of the magnitude of this by saying that we now have on hand 16,405 applications amounting to \$526 million against which we have an allocation available out of \$150 million of about \$135 million. This is a substantial program but there is no way, I think, that we can look forward to meeting all the demands upon it at this time.