

Could he say whether, under the housing program for 1971, loans with a decreasing rate of interest may be provided for low-income people as regards the building of single dwellings?

[English]

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio):** We have entered into reciprocal or co-operative arrangements with some of the provinces in cases in which those provinces are applying interest rebates. The province of Quebec, for instance, has a program whereby it joins with purchasers of low income cost homes to provide a 3 per cent interest rebate and we are working out arrangements with other provinces along these lines. I hope to be able to make an announcement shortly.

[Translation]

**Mr. Laprise:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

I do not think the minister understood my question. I am not referring to the interest rebates offered by the provinces, but to the loans at a decreasing rate down to 7½ per cent granted by the government for the construction of apartment buildings or row housing.

I would like to know whether the minister may also grant loans at a decreasing rate down to 7½ per cent for the construction of single dwellings.

[English]

**Mr. Andras:** We have not made federal government loans through CMHC at the rate of interest to which the hon. member has referred. We have made loans at interest rates lower than market cost under section 16 of the act and, in some cases, under section 40 of the act, but never at rates lower than those permitted under section 16. Therefore, the interest rates to which the hon. member refers must reflect participation by the provincial government.

[Translation]

#### SPECIAL CREDITS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a supplementary to the Prime Minister.

Could he tell the House whether the Union of Municipalities has asked the federal government to grant funds to municipalities for certain projects? I know that the minister responsible for housing is directly involved, and I was hoping that this morning he would give us an answer—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member should give the minister an opportunity to answer this question.

[English]

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, I really cannot deal with the precise points

#### Inquiries of the Ministry

the hon. member has raised because I do not quite understand them. All I can say is we were successful in discussing last week in Winnipeg, with the provincial ministers of municipal affairs and representatives of municipal governments, arrangements and a commitment concerning tri-level consultation on a whole range of matters involving urbanization and urban problems. The question of grants, if that is what the hon. member is referring to, was not dealt with in any specific way.

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#### FINANCE

##### STORAGE OF COMPUTER DATA ON ECONOMY IN UNITED STATES DATA BANKS

**Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina):** I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Is the hon. gentleman now in a position to say whether or not data on the Canadian economy is being stored in United States data banks?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Ryan:** A supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can the hon. gentleman assure the House that the census data will not be stored in United States data banks?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** I will look into it. I suggest the answer given by the Minister of Finance will apply in this case, but I will try to secure confirmation.

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#### PUBLIC SERVICE

##### DELAY IN SIGNING AGREEMENT WITH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH GROUP

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the long process of collective bargaining which has gone on with the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada with regard to the scientific research groups, since August 7, 1970, can the minister say why Treasury Board has delayed signing the final agreement?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether there was any delay but I shall make an inquiry and advise the hon. member.

**Mr. Bell:** I hope the minister will reply because I understand some members who have shown good will in this regard are annoyed by the thought that this is another way by which Treasury Board is frustrating this method of collective bargaining.

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#### OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT

##### BILINGUAL DISTRICTS—RECONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AREAS—CRITERIA TO BE USED

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister a question