

Oral Questions

accommodation for pensioners is concerned, and only in this area? I would ask him to take some initiative there.

Mr. Basford: One province has already taken action in this regard. Others, as I understand the position, are contemplating the establishment of rent review boards. I think this is a matter purely within the jurisdiction of provincial ministers. I would be happy to see that the remarks of the hon. gentleman are brought to the attention of provincial governments, but he will recognize as well as I do that this is a matter within their sphere of jurisdiction.

REQUEST FOR MORATORIUM ON RENT INCREASES AND FORECLOSURES ON CERTAIN PROPERTIES

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister a supplementary along the same lines. In light of the fact that the Canadian Labour Congress in its brief recommended that a moratorium should be placed not only on rents of properties under the jurisdiction or direct control of the CMHC, whether limited dividend projects or not, would the minister order a moratorium against (a) rent increases, and (b) foreclosures? I ask this question in light of the fact that in connection with limited dividend projects rents recently went up by 20 per cent, in spite of the hon. gentleman's words.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): I have already answered the question with respect to limited dividend projects. With regard to foreclosure action, I believe each case should be decided on its own merits. It is our policy when there is default on a mortgage to make every possible effort not to foreclose and to reach some financial arrangement with the owner of the property.

Mr. Woolliams: The minister said he has ordered CMHC to look into the circumstances strictly before allowing rent increases. Does he consider an increase in the rent charged to tenants of limited dividend projects amounting to 20 per cent as late as January, 1973, as evidence of any strictness in the policy he is setting out today?

Mr. Basford: It is a very large increase, obviously. It is, however, provided for in the contract governing the property. What I have said is that the corporation has been instructed to follow these agreements strictly in so far as any applications for increases are concerned.

ALLEGED INDICATION BY LANDLORDS THAT RENT INCREASES AUTHORIZED BY CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. May I ask the minister whether he is aware of the fact that in some cases landlords in giving rental increase notices to their tenants are saying in writing that the increases are with the authorization of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and will he ask the corporation to review its policy in this matter?

[Mr. Lewis.]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I wish the hon. gentleman would give me the letter to which he is referring. I presume he is probably referring to the case of a limited dividend project, and I think it is a misnomer to say in such cases that a rent increase is authorized by the corporation. I think the letter is wrong in that sense and I wish the hon. member would give it to me.

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[Translation]

ATOMIC ENERGY

RESEARCH TO INCREASE HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Since the Gentilly nuclear plant which cost several million dollars is experiencing difficulties due to a scarcity of heavy water, could the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce inform the House if, during the past two years, the government has sponsored research for a larger production of heavy water in Canada in order to meet our needs?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, we have discussed with the Ontario and Quebec provincial governments the heavy water problem and the possibility of building another heavy water plant in one of those provinces. No decision has been reached yet on that matter but it is obvious that the success of the Canadian nuclear program will increase heavy water needs.

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[English]

INFORMATION

STEPS TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF TASK FORCE ON PRIVACY AND COMPUTERS IN LIGHT OF INFRINGEMENT ON RIGHT TO PRIVACY

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. In view of the concern expressed by the Canadian Labour Congress in its brief yesterday, and by the Consumers Association of Canada, regarding the increased use of data banks in Canada and the fact that these data banks violate and infringe upon the right of Canadians to privacy, I should like to ask what steps he proposes to take to implement the recommendations of the task force on privacy and computers, particularly in light of the fact that the legislation of last session was allowed to die on the order paper?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the two parts of this question are very different. We certainly intend to come back to the House with legislation dealing with electronic and other forms of surveillance, making that an offence. As far as the task force report is concerned, hon. members will have noted that the task force did not suggest we were in a crisis situation at the moment but what is required is action to avoid that happening. We