

Oral Questions

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): That is reflected by our ability to create the environment for the jobs that have been generated in the private sector. We will continue to do that. However, we still have some very serious financial problems which we are continuing to deal with, ones to which we are committed.

I know that members of the NDP could not care less about that element of government policy. All they want to do is spend, spend, spend—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Thunder Bay.

REQUEST FOR FEDERAL ACTION

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, the Minister must recognize that his Government is making some financial decisions for expenditures such as on nuclear submarines. That money could be better used assisting our municipalities, as the Government has assisted Halifax in terms of its sewage treatment facility, to give our cities the financial ability to clean up the environmental problems that are created by poor sewer systems, leaded pipes, and crumbling roads.

Will the Minister and the Government reconsider and agree to work with the Canadian Federation of Municipalities, the provinces, and the cities to rebuild our communities?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, this is another question of half truths and things that are bordering on dishonesty.

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister's response is also bordering on what is acceptable. I would ask the Minister to give his answer.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, let me just remove the rhetoric and talk facts. The NDP's proposals on defence call for a \$1.9 billion increase in spending over and above what has been talked about in the nuclear submarine proposal.

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): Nonsense.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The Hon. Member for Brant knows that that is the truth because that is the statement that he himself has made.

It is not a question of nuclear subs versus infrastructure. It is a question of who is responsible for doing the job.

I have said many, many times that I would like to see this work done but those responsible for it are the provinces and the municipalities. If they feel as strongly about it as the Hon. Member implies they do, then they should start getting on with the job themselves. That is where the responsibility lies. If we start spending money in all sorts of areas of provincial and municipal responsibility they will not like that. They will also

see the deficit go up. That will lead to higher interest rates and a slow-down in economic activity. That is precisely the direction that we are trying to avoid as a government.

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● (1200)

HOUSING

METROPOLITAN TORONTO—FEDERAL LANDS

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for the Treasury Board. Back on June 2, the President of the Treasury Board stated in this House that the Department and, in particular, the Bureau of Real Property Management in the Department, was giving serious consideration to releasing federally owned surplus lands for badly needed affordable housing in the Metropolitan Toronto area.

Now, some two and a half months have passed. When are we going to have a decision on this? Is everybody in the Department away on vacation? When can we expect some action?

An Hon. Member: When the election gets called.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of State and Minister of State (Treasury Board)): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the Hon. Member on June 27, there is an ongoing study with respect to surplus lands in the city of Toronto. My friend, as I have indicated to him on that date, will know that this Government has a policy of selling off surplus lands and making the best use of the land that the Government owns.

In keeping with that policy and in keeping with the efforts of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, we are reviewing the land, and as soon as we have a comprehensive plan in place, that will be announced.

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CHILD CARE

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister, and it concerns the speech given yesterday by the Prime Minister, parading his social policy, which contained a number of mistruths and fabrications.

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!