

*Privilege—Mr. Parry*

## HOUSING

### SHORTAGE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN METROPOLITAN TORONTO—SALE OF CROWN OWNED PROPERTY

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for housing. As the Minister knows, there is a crisis in Metropolitan Toronto with regard to the availability of affordable housing.

Can the Minister explain to this House and to Canadians why his Department is selling Crown owned property in Metropolitan Toronto on the auction block to the highest bidder when that land should be made available to groups which are prepared to build affordable housing on these lots?

**Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the Hon. Member is referring to the sale of the Malvern Land Assembly in Toronto. That program involves both the federal and provincial Governments. It commenced in 1972. Ten thousand units have been sold during that period of time. Fifty per cent of those have a subsidy assisted component. More people have been assisted in this land assembly than in any other part of Canada.

**Mr. Young:** Mr. Speaker, that answer is totally unacceptable. The Minister knows full well that that land was set aside to build affordable housing on if the housing market reached the point at which it is today.

● (1500)

### SALE OF LAND TO HIGHEST BIDDER

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Mr. Speaker, will the Minister come clean with Canadians and explain exactly why he is selling off land, that was put aside for construction of affordable housing, to the highest bidder? Can he explain that to Canadians because I cannot understand it?

**Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I am happy to respond. There are now 100,000 units of social housing in Toronto. That compels an annual subsidy from the federal Government of approximately \$200 million. We have a policy in co-operation with the Ontario Government, which has been in place since 1972, to sell land at market conditions. In co-operation with the other governments we are returning plans under various government programs to help those most in need. Perhaps a particular section of Toronto is not the only place in Canada that needs help.

*[Translation]*

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. People in Kent, Westmorland and Albert, in New Brunswick, now have to work sixteen weeks to be eligible for unemployment insurance, instead of the previous ten weeks. According to Statistics Canada, the unemployment rate in the Southeast was 12.1 per cent in April and 16.2 per cent in March, which contradicts the 11.5 per cent given by her own Department. Could the Minister explain to the House what her Department is doing and why?

*[English]*

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I would like a chance to review that situation. I am not aware of the situation raised by the Hon. Member and would be very happy to look into it.

*[Translation]*

### OPPORTUNITY TO RETAIN 10-WEEK QUALIFYING PERIOD

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent):** Mr. Speaker, when the Minister looks into this problem, would she consider the fact that in our part of the country, it is very difficult to find a job for ten weeks? Some jobs only last ten weeks, and I am thinking of workers in lobster plants and assistant-fishermen, because the lobster season is only ten weeks long. So considering this situation, could the Minister maintain the eligible period at ten weeks because otherwise, a number of families will be facing a pretty bleak winter.

*[English]*

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I will take that as a representation. Certainly I will look into it and take all the relevant information into account.

\* \* \*

## PRIVILEGE

### ACCURACY OF RESPONSE DURING QUESTION PERIOD

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a question of privilege arising from the response given to me in Question Period on May 12. I believe we have established that notwithstanding the lapse of time since May 12, this is the first practical opportunity I have had to raise this question of privilege which arises from the answer given to me on a supplementary question concerning the exportation of gun powder by Expro.

After the rather delightful Alfonse and Gaston routine, the two Ministers went through, finally the Hon. Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Jelinek) replied to my question.