

Government Orders

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is suggesting that I did not answer his first question. I will give him a much more specific answer. Not only did I meet with the Quebec environment minister along with others, but I got to talk to him personally. I gave him an outline of the Green Plan and the Quebec Minister of the Environment was quite satisfied. There were further consultations about the finer points of the Green Plan and the Government of Quebec was satisfied with the approach taken by the central government.

* * *

HOUSING

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to Minister of State for Housing. Recent newspaper reports indicate that the Government of Quebec is not particularly enthusiastic over federal policies concerning subsidized housing. Can the minister tell us why the federal government would favour Ontario to the detriment of Quebec when it comes to funding subsidized housing?

Hon. Alan Redway (Minister of State (Housing)): Mr. Speaker, I sincerely believe that Quebecers will get their fair share of available resources and that Quebec is not short-changed to the benefit of other provinces or territories. In 1990, Quebec got 26.9 per cent of all housing units, against 25.2 per cent for Ontario. As you would know, Mr. Speaker, my responsibility is to help any low-income family find decent living accommodation wherever it happens to live.

* * *

[English]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, CBC President Gerard Veilleux said today with respect to its cuts that "politicians, and in particular the cabinet, have the responsibility for keeping the CBC alive".

Will the Prime Minister admit that neither he nor the Minister of Communications even bothered to meet with the CBC President? They did not even bother to lift a little finger to do something to help the CBC before the savage cuts took place and were announced? Will the

Prime Minister tell us why he and his cabinet abdicated their responsibility with respect to the public broadcasters?

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Since 1936, Mr. Speaker, all governments, including this one, have assumed their responsibilities towards the CBC. Moreover, I met Mr. Veilleux on many occasions following his appointment as President of the CBC. He never mentioned that he wanted to discuss with me how the CBC budget should be spent and how the president and directors of the CBC should administer their own budget.

[English]

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, it would make a very interesting exchange between the Prime Minister and Mr. Veilleux to find out who was correct in this particular situation.

[Translation]

I have a supplementary question. This morning, the CBC was unable to assure hon. members that there would be no further cuts nor any other closing of television or radio stations. The Minister of Communications did nothing to protect the CBC at the Cabinet meetings. Would the minister admit that he did not even lift a finger to help the artistic community in Canada? If you did, what did you do? Tell me!

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications): Since 1984, Mr. Speaker, this government on many occasions increased the budget of the CBC. As for the future, Mr. Speaker, only the Liberal Party knows it.

* * *

[English]

CANADA'S GREEN PLAN

Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, forest resources development agreements have not been mentioned in the green plan, yet they are fundamental to the survival of the forestry industry in Canada. The minister announced that he proposes to plant 325 million trees in our towns and cities.