

Inquiries of the Ministry

SUGGESTED LOW-COST INNOVATIVE PILOT PROJECT

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): I wish to direct a supplementary question to the minister in respect of the request of the Housing and Urban Development Association for his support for a 100-acre, low-cost, innovative pilot housing project. Is the minister prepared to support their request?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): The National House Builders Association is now the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada. Last year they came to us with a proposal in principle. It was not possible to entertain it at that time. I have not seen any details. I was told this morning that they have received an enthusiastic response from a municipality and provincial government. I invited them to send us the details so that we can examine them. Generally speaking, we would be receptive to examining them, but I am in no position to make a decision at this time because I have not seen them yet.

EFFECT OF FLUCTUATING INTEREST RATES ON STARTS

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): I have a supplementary question with regard to the report that many builders are withholding their building programs because of the wide fluctuation of interest rates. Would the minister consider stabilizing interest rates for a period of six months or a year so that builders can proceed with their building programs? As a further supplementary, will the minister consider making some of the interest rates more especially with regard to CMHC loans, dependent on income, in other words, interest geared to income?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the last portion of the question was wrapped up in the answer I gave a moment ago. With regard to the builders holding off for a stabilization of interest rates, I inquired of the house builders this morning if this was the case to any marked degree. They said this is not the case. As far as my ability to stabilize interest rates for six months or a year is concerned, it is a very interesting proposition, but I do not really subscribe to it at the present time.

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ENERGY

QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO GRANT TO LA LIGUE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Mr. David Lewis (York South): My question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It is in connection with the answers he gave with regard to a pipeline through Canada from Alaska to United States. The minister referred to a condition regarding the ecological consequences of the pipeline. Is research on the question of the ecological consequences of building a pipeline completed, what organization is the minister depending on for such research, and if he has any report is he prepared to table it?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, exactly two years

[Mr. Andras.]

ago, my own department as well as other departments and the private sector undertook some research work on the possible effects on the tundra of pipeline construction. A few days ago, I even told the House that such research would be extended for another summer season before we came to a final conclusion. On many occasions, I stated that such a final conclusion could in my opinion be sooner the better, but I have repeatedly said that we intended to take up all the time we needed and only when we have in hand all the information made available by the government officials and by the private companies will we be able to make a meaningful decision.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the minister. Is he sure that the research will bring about a satisfactory solution to this issue?

Mr. Chrétien: I said, Mr. Speaker, that if man is able to send another man to the moon, he would probably be able to build a pipeline in the North without destroying the ecological balance. I can also say that the experiments made in the last two years lead us to believe that that will be possible.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO TRAFFICKING IN INDUSTRIAL MILK QUOTAS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Would the minister be prepared to set up some form of inquiry into the question of trafficking in industrial milk quotas?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): The hon. member has asked this question a number of times; indeed, it has been the subject of one "late show". If he has some evidence in connection with "trafficking in milk quotas" I would be happy to receive that evidence and look into it.

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[Translation]

HUMAN RIGHTS

QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO GRANT TO LA LIGUE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Prime Minister.

In view of a request made a fortnight ago by Mr. Jacques Hébert, representative of the Quebec chapter of the Civil Liberties Union, for financial support from the federal government, and since the Secretary of State is supposed to be studying this request since then, could the Prime Minister say whether the government has agreed to subsidize this organization and for which purposes?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know that the Secretary of State has indeed received a request in these general terms and that he is considering it. Unfortunately, I cannot tell the House which decision he has reached, but I am satisfied that if the hon. member asks this question of the minister upon his return, he will obtain an answer.