

member raised this question in the House yesterday and notice was taken of it by the Minister of State for Finance. Since that time the Solicitor General, the Minister of Public Works, the hon. member for Mississauga North and hon. member for Parkdale-High Park have also raised the same question.

I am pleased to answer her today in a positive way and say that I will be proposing in the implementing legislation that a deduction be provided for costs incurred, namely, soft costs, after November 12, 1981, relating to any building providing the installation of footings or any other base support of the building is commenced before the end of this year and that the construction of the building proceeds without delay.

In addition, with respect to interest expensing, Madam Speaker, I will be proposing that interest expenses will be fully deductible on any funds borrowed by the first purchaser of a multiple unit residential building from the builder or developer as the case may be.

I wanted to use these precise words in order to clarify the situation and to ensure that those soft costs related to projects as I have described will be covered, so the projects that have been identified by the hon. member and the members on this side of the House whom I have enumerated, will be dealt with, and proceed. I am grateful to provide that clarification.

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THE BUDGET

RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO ADVERTISING AGENCY

Hon. Bill Jarvis (Perth): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State as the responsible minister and chairman of the cabinet committee on communications which apparently, according to the minister for housing, was the government vehicle used to release the budgetary information to Vickers and Benson. Will he confirm what has been suggested by his colleague, that in fact that cabinet committee did authorize the release and, more important, will he indicate who communicated the information to Vickers and Benson, precisely on what day, and as close to what time as the minister's recollection will permit was the information released to Vickers and Benson?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Secretary of State): Madam Speaker, I am unable to help my hon. friend in relation to when information was passed to Vickers and Benson because of the fact that this ad came before the cabinet committee on communications in a meeting—

An hon. Member: That's when it was in the newspapers.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: It was already in the papers by then.

Mr. Regan:—at a meeting during the noontime period, and this committee had no prior involvement with that ad.

Oral Questions

ROLE PLAYED BY CABINET COMMITTEE

Hon. Bill Jarvis (Perth): If that is the case, Madam Speaker, that the cabinet committee was advised of an advertisement that had been placed even before the cabinet committee met, was there no questioning by that committee and no effort to stop the breach of secrecy regarding budgetary information? Did the committee do absolutely nothing once it had been informed that this was the ad that had been sent out to over 140 newspapers? Is that what the Secretary of State would have us believe?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Secretary of State): I appreciate the histrionics of the hon. member, Madam Speaker, but he should—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Regan:—he should well remember that many ads are placed by government that do not go through that particular committee, and if he listened carefully to my words he should also be aware of the fact that that ad came before cabinet committee for approval on Friday, which was after the budget had been delivered, and we were concerned with the question of whether the message in that ad should be quickly put forward at that point to the people.

An hon. Member: It was already out.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: It was in the newspapers.

Mr. Regan: In my view it was extremely important that the public have information in relation to that type of help as rapidly as possible.

An hon. Member: They already had it, even before you did.

Mr. Regan: We approved publication thereafter. I am not aware of any publication before it came to our attention.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER MAKE STATEMENT ON MOTIONS

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, I should like to return now to the minister of housing and direct a question to him. I know I will be repeating myself with respect to questions that have been asked by members of our party on this matter, but I would ask him to deny categorically that the information he received in advance with respect to the budget was prematurely given to Vickers and Benson.

The minister has made reference to a number of scenarios prepared by his department. You will recall that he said there were a number of scenarios. In order to get this matter off the floor of the House will he do two things; first, will he undertake to table in this House the different scenarios that had been prepared by the department so that members and the people of Canada can compare them with what exactly appeared in the budget? Second, will he be prepared to make a statement on motions outlining the full investigation and cir-