

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

completion of housing projects in certain parts of Canada. We meet this problem in varying degrees every winter. I think it would be a mistake at this point to agree to an extension of the period, because the immediate effect would be to encourage further delays in housing construction. I have received delegations and I have explained that the purpose of the incentive payment is to encourage construction in the winter months and that it would be unwise in my view to lose sight of that objective.

It is my intention to review the situation later on toward the close of the period to determine whether there is any justification at that time for an extension, a course which was taken last year.

**Mr. Thompson:** There is a certain urgency about this matter because the payments which have already been agreed in respect of home construction are now being cancelled due to the inability of builders to put in basements during this cold weather.

**Mr. MacEachen:** I will be glad to take another look at this question, especially to consider the special problem with respect to the cancellations the hon. member has mentioned. As a department we have not, of course, cancelled the incentive payment with respect to any home, provided the construction requirements have been met.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPORTING TO  
PARLIAMENT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, I was intending to address a question to the Prime Minister arising out of his announcement earlier today of changes in the ministry. However, I think the President of the Privy Council might be able to supply the information I should like. Could the President of the Privy Council inform the house which member of the ministry at the present time is responsible to parliament for the operations of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the administration of the National Housing Act?

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** There has been no change, Mr. Speaker. I am.

FINANCE

STEPS RESPECTING FLOW OF U.S.  
INVESTMENT CAPITAL TO CANADA

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. George C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-20220—720**

**Kings):** I have a question for the Minister of Finance. The President of the United States has been quoted as saying that he has received a firm assurance from the Canadian government that the Canadian government would pursue the policies necessary to ease the flow of investment funds into Canada, and I should like to ask the minister if this report is correct. Is the President correctly reported? Has such a definite assurance been given, and if so what was the nature of the assurance and what policies does the Canadian government propose to follow in order to inhibit or reduce the flow of capital into this country?

**Hon. Walter L. Gordon (Minister of Finance):** Prior to his message to congress the President telephoned the Prime Minister to tell him what was proposed, and he suggested I might confer with Hon. Mr. Dillon, the secretary of the United States treasury. This I did. I was able to give him a renewal of a previous assurance on behalf of the Canadian government that our policies would continue to be directed toward general stability in our foreign exchange reserves.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Gordon:** I will add, for the hon. gentleman's information, that the wording I have just used was the wording in the message to which I referred.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS  
JURISDICTION RESPECTING OFFSHORE  
MINERAL RIGHTS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (Queens-Lunenburg):** I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister, one which is of urgent national importance especially on the east coast. In view of the fact that four oil companies have taken out exploration permits with respect to 26 million undersea acres off the coast of Nova Scotia, and excitement is mounting over the possibility of underseas oil being discovered, can the Prime Minister give any indication of the date by which the ownership of which these offshore mineral rights will be determined as between the federal and the provincial governments? Will the Prime Minister cause an inquiry to be made to determine when the question of ownership may be finalized?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** I am afraid I am not able to give a specific answer to the last part of the question con-