

Oral Questions

tion of the Liberal Government two months ago for cutting the co-op housing allocations almost in half, would the Minister tell us whether he intends to reassign the allocations which cannot be taken up, so as to fill the very serious gap in the co-op housing program which was left by the Liberals?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the Hon. Member, through you, that it is not the intention of this Government to reduce co-op housing by some 41 per cent, which was the direction taken by the previous administration. If the Hon. Member is suggesting that co-op housing be the only commitment and the only direction under public housing which this Government takes in reallocation of those units, the Hon. Member and I do not share the same view.

DENIAL OF INSURANCE TO SUBDIVISION IN FORT McMURRAY,
ALTA.

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Labour and has to do with his duties with respect to CMHC. Would the Minister tell us when he will direct CMHC to stop the discriminatory practice of denying whole subdivisions within Fort McMurray CMHC insurance? I refer to the Abasands subdivision which is less than 10 years old.

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has my assurance that my officials in CMHC are aware of the concern he has expressed. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that I find it very strange that the Hon. Member takes up the time of his colleagues in the House when he could speak to me at other times about these matters.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McKnight: However, on a serious note, Mr. Speaker, I do share the Hon. Member's concern. The officials in CMHC have been made aware of the problem, and the subdivision within his constituency to which he has referred will, I hope, be able to become again a client of CMHC in the mortgage insurance fund.

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AGRICULTURE

RED MEAT STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In his absence perhaps I could direct it to the Acting Minister of Agriculture. The Government has promised to establish a red meat stabilization program this year for hard pressed farmers, many of whom are facing bankruptcy this winter. In the agreement reached by the federal and provincial agricultural Ministers last July, only the three prairie provinces and Ontario agreed to the program. Would the Minister tell us whether the federal Government is going to go ahead with the establishment of this red meat

stabilization program without the participation of the Atlantic provinces, British Columbia, and Quebec?

Hon. Charles Mayer (Acting Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker, the federal Government intends to proceed with enabling legislation. Presently there are agreements between the four provinces to which the Member refers. The legislation will be enabling and, hopefully, after a period of time other provinces will see fit to join.

INTRODUCTION OF ENABLING LEGISLATION

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Acting Minister of Agriculture. I wonder if the Government will bring in that legislation within the next few weeks so that the enabling legislation can be in place by the first of January. Otherwise the Ontario Minister of Agriculture has indicated that he is going ahead unilaterally to establish a program in that province which will further fragment the whole situation across the country.

Hon. Charles Mayer (Acting Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Government intends to introduce that legislation very shortly. I would like to add that, from the tone of the Hon. Member's question I take it that he would actively support that legislation. Let me say that the legislation will be introduced within three months, or thereabouts, of our new mandate. The Hon. Member's Party was in power during the last four years and did nothing on that matter.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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FISHERIES

GREAT LAKES FISH QUOTAS

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay-Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Keeping in mind that the Province of Ontario has been somewhat ham fisted in its dealings with Ontario's commercial fishermen, would the Minister indicate what agreement, if any, he reached last night during his private meeting with Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources regarding the jurisdictional dispute over fish quotas on the Great Lakes?

Hon. John A. Fraser (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for his question. I am very pleased to see that, from the conversation which we were able to have last night, the Hon. Member has taken this opportunity forthwith to ask a question. It is a serious and important question.

I met with the appropriate Minister of the Government of Ontario last night to discuss further the difficulties which he has had in the administration of the fishery in the Great Lakes, which is, of course, a responsibility of the Government of Ontario. We clearly understood that there has been some