

speculation. If that is the case, what does the government intend to do to stop this speculation in land?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is my view that a lot of the heat, not all, has been taken out of the speculation sales. The biggest factor in land costs now is the delay in approvals of bringing in serviced land for housing production. I share the hon. member's concern. I am asking the housing ministers to meet in Ottawa on the twenty-fifth of this month. This is one of the subjects to which we want to address ourselves in a very substantial way. It has been a matter for discussion at all of our meetings so far. We all recognize that it is one of the major areas of concern, even with the additional incentives which we are providing of \$1,000 per unit and the additional sewage treatment and water treatment programs we have proposed in our new set of housing policies. We want to do all in our power to work with the provinces to see that this land is brought on stream as soon as possible without undue bureaucratic delay and that the concerns of the municipalities are taken into consideration.

* * *

● (1120)

[Translation]

CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

SUGGESTION REGIONAL OFFICES BE INFORMED OF NEW POLICY

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I also wish to put a question to the Minister of Urban Affairs.

On November 3 last, the minister announced a new Canadian housing policy. To date, the regional offices of the CMHC have had only the newspapers as a source of information on that policy. Can the minister tell us why he has neglected to inform those offices, and whether he intends to do so in the near future?

[English]

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): We have been advising regional offices as rapidly as we can. Indeed, on the day of the announcement the regional officers as well as the district officers were all advised by Telex where possible. Otherwise, local management was to come in for as thorough a briefing as could be arranged. The hon. member will understand that much of the detail cannot be given until the legislation passes through the House. However, the fullest possible information is being given to the regional officers; this was arranged as part of our initial planning, but if the hon. member knows of some offices which have not yet been informed I would be interested to have particulars; I would urge him to send me a note or drop over to see me because I shall be meeting later today with the President of CMHC.

Oral Questions

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—INQUIRY WHETHER QUEBEC AND FEDERAL GUIDELINES SIMILAR

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance who told us a number of days ago he would have to read the Quebec legislation concerning controls within the area of jurisdiction being preserved by the government of Quebec before he could inform us whether guidelines would be uniform or would vary from province to province. Has the minister satisfied himself that Quebec is following the same guidelines as the federal guidelines?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Bill No. 64, I think it is, is virtually identical to the federal bill.

While I am on my feet perhaps I could deal with another matter. Yesterday the hon. gentleman asked me about the budgetary deficit. I responded with regard to the figure concerning cash requirement and perhaps I could correct my answer. The figure of between five and six billion dollars represents the government's cash requirement and not the budgetary side alone.

Mr. Stanfield: Now, Mr. Speaker, in which direction do I go?

An hon. Member: Hang in there, Bob!

Mr. Stanfield: I will deal with the deficit later in the question period. The minister has not answered my original question. I was not asking whether the terms of the legislation are the same. I was asking whether the guidelines with regard to salary increases, for example, are the same as the federal guidelines. I would like a specific answer to that question.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): At this point all we have before us is the Quebec bill, just as we have before us Bill C-73. Quebec has, of course, chosen to set up its own administration in this regard. I have no reason to believe that, having adopted almost a mirror image of the federal legislation, Quebec will not be making every effort in the application of that legislation to follow the same principles as we are following.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF POSITION OF EACH PROVINCE ON GUIDELINES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I am not surprised that the minister tried to create a diversion, but I am surprised that he cannot tell this House even at this date, many weeks after the announcement of the government's program, about the position of the provinces.

I want to ask the Minister of Finance whether he will be able to assure the committee before the anti-inflation bill is reported out of committee what is the position of each of the ten provinces, or those that are coming into the program and allowing the federal government to administer it totally. In the case of a province such as Quebec, which is preserving its own jurisdiction, can the minister tell the committee precisely what guidelines the province of