

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): No, Mr. Speaker. Indeed on the last occasion when the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce was asked about this he said he himself would act as the controller. I am happy to note that the tie-up was cleared away somewhat faster than many members opposite thought was possible. I am sure the matter is well in hand under the direction of the Canadian Wheat Board. Under their direction as well there are under way certain experimental systems of handling grain which may in the long run improve the handling of our grain between the local elevator companies and Vancouver.

WHEAT—LOWER GRADES SUPPLIED BY
ELEVATORS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister without Portfolio could advise the house what proportion of this grain that was shipped by the elevator companies was not of the grade ordered, indicating whether it was of a grade lower than 2 Northern, and whether it was damp or tough?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, as I understand the situation, the grain in demand is No. 2 and the grain shipped in excess was No. 4.

HOUSING

REQUEST FOR GUIDELINES ON URBAN
RENEWAL

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the new minister in charge of housing. If I may I should like to congratulate him warmly on his appointment and express the hope that I will be able to congratulate him on his performance.

Is the minister in a position to inform the house when we may expect to receive guidelines in respect of the public housing and urban renewal policy of his department or the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, as I imagine the hon. member would expect, I am not in a position to give him a precise date in that regard. I have spent the last several hours in briefing sessions and I hope to be able to be a little more definitive on these matters in a few days. I am very conscious of the need for this

[Mr. Muir (Lisgar).]

kind of decision to be made and enunciated very quickly.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, while the minister was being briefed on this matter did he have an opportunity to discuss the following matter and, if not, will he consider it: I refer to the question of a supplementary estimate to add to funds available for public housing and urban renewal, since only the availability of finances can make this program effective?

Mr. Andras: I am conscious of the representations the hon. member has made.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I express the hope that the minister will not be influenced to a great extent by the unimportance the Prime Minister apparently attaches to these problems.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): I wish to ask a supplementary question of the minister.

According to what the Prime Minister said last Sunday on the program "Deux plus un", there is no housing crisis in Canada. Would the minister responsible for housing tell us whether the government is thinking of drafting a bill on housing, which would allow peoples in the lower income group, that is those who earn \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year, to buy a house according to the plan suggested by the minister?

[English]

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendments to the Housing Act are now on the order paper. I hope we will be able to deal with those in the house and refer them to the committee very shortly. At that time and following then I hope the policy answers the hon. member is seeking will be articulated.

POSSIBILITY OF MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL
MINISTERS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should also like to congratulate the minister responsible for housing, and I hope that we will have further dialogue. In view of the fact the Canadian Welfare Council has indicated to the Prime Minister that opportunities remain largely untested for federal initiative in promoting a socially just housing program in partnership with the provinces, can the minister now state wher-