

ously. I am sure that if such an event should occur the department is prepared to look after any circumstances as they arise.

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### HOUSING

#### REQUEST FOR TABLING OF CAPITAL BUDGET OF CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

**Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia):** I have a question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister intend to table the capital budget of CMHC soon and why is it now two months later than it has been in the past two years?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** I believe it has been tabled, but I will check into it.

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[Translation]

### AGRICULTURE

#### PROGRAM TO ASSIST SMALL FARMERS—STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROVINCES—METHOD OF APPLICATION

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture?

As he met with his provincial counterparts to discuss the small farms development program, for which \$150 million were appropriated, would the minister report to the House progress made in negotiations with the provinces on this program, as several provinces recently objected to the terms of application of the program?

[English]

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the last meeting I had with the provincial ministers was on February 14. In so far as the features of the program for the farmers are concerned there has been a great deal of progress, but as to the division of administrative responsibility between the two levels of government I regret I have to report that there has not been a great deal of progress.

**Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. I should like to ask him whether this is because the provinces do not agree with the assumption that their administrative officials should be charged with the responsibility of carrying out what is essentially a federal program? Is this where the difference lies?

**Mr. Olson:** Not at all, Mr. Speaker. I think that, on balance, it would be the other way; they wish to assume more of the responsibility than we had suggested with us paying for it.

[Translation]

**Mr. La Salle:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether he would be willing to consider setting up individual methods of application for this program with each one of the provinces, that is to negotiate with

### Inquiries of the Ministry

each one instead of applying the policy uniformly across the nation?

[English]

**Mr. Olson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is the stage at which we are now. At the meeting on February 14 I think it was generally agreed that one administrative plan applicable in precisely the same way to all the provinces was not capable of being reached, and we are now attempting to negotiate with each province bilaterally.

#### PROGRAM TO ASSIST SMALL FARMERS—NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

**Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque):** I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, whether discussions are at present going on between the government of Prince Edward Island and his department with regard to the initiation of the small farm program in that province in the near future?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Not directly with P.E.I. at present although we have extended to that province the same invitation as to all other provinces. I think only three provinces have replied that they are ready to start these negotiations, but P.E.I. is not one of those that has replied to date.

#### FEED GRAIN—POSSIBILITY OF FREE INTERPROVINCIAL MOVEMENT

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture who of course is always interested in assuring that farmers have the largest possible income. I therefore ask him whether or not the government is giving consideration to making it possible for farm producers of feed grains on the Prairies to ship them to any part of Canada regardless of whether movement is otherwise controlled by the provinces?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** I am sure that the right hon. member would be cognizant of the fact that if there were no restrictions such as those imposed at provincial borders at present it would completely break down the system of quotas which allocates the market fairly amongst all the producers, thereby leading to the destruction of that system which, in my view, would be undesirable.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That does not answer my question. The hon. gentleman should learn from the Acting Prime Minister who today showed what experience can do when it comes to answering questions. There is no substitute for experience. I ask the minister simply whether or not consideration is being given to making it possible for farmers to dispose of their feed grain regardless of provincial authorities or jurisdiction.

**Mr. Olson:** I do not think it would be proper for me to comment on the propriety of provincial legislation or programs which would flow from that legislation within the provinces.