

man now indicate if he is going to implement the undertaking he made to me and to this House last summer and immediately bring in a bill to carry out the provisions suggested in the Wilson report regarding the powers of the Auditor General?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, as I said a few months ago, I intend to proceed, and the government agrees on most of the recommendations in the Wilson report. As regards the format the legislation will take, we are not ready yet to make it public but we will do so the moment we can.

[English]

SUGGESTED REFERRAL OF WILSON REPORT TO COMMITTEE
TO RECOMMEND DRAFT BILL

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the President of the Privy Council? If it is beyond the capacity or desire of this government to bring in such a bill, would the government consider referring the matter to the Public Accounts Committee, so that it may, in view of the government's default, bring in recommendations for such a bill?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I regret that I did not hear the question which was directed to my colleague, the President of the Treasury Board and am afraid I cannot answer the hon. member. But I always take under consideration any suggestion made by my hon. friend, the House leader of the official opposition, and assure him that I will give his question my sympathetic consideration, if not my agreement.

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AGRICULTURE

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT PRICES FOR CALVES

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the lateness of the season and the desperation of many cow-calf producers across Canada, and as Her Majesty's official opposition supports the agricultural price stabilization legislation, will the minister not declare immediately that the government will provide support prices for calves under the terms of that legislation?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we have decided to provide support prices for beef, which will run from August 12 to the end of December, and a new program will begin on January 1, for the beef industry for the next year.

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HOUSING

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY PERIOD FOR \$500 GRANT

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State

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for Urban Affairs and is supplementary to the question asked yesterday by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka. As many Canadians have committed themselves to the purchase of new houses on the basis of the government's promise of a grant to first time home owners—indeed, many such people have committed the grant itself as part of the down payment—and as they may be prevented from collecting these grants because of strikes or by delays caused by labour difficulties, and so on, has the minister given special consideration to the plight of these Canadians in order to ensure that they may receive the first time home owners grant and are not denied the grant because of circumstances beyond their control?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, yes, I have given thorough consideration to that problem. As grants are to be cut back, as announced, after the occupancy date of October 31, there is an obvious problem for those people who have entered into purchase agreements and have bona fide documentation. For those people who have entered into agreements in good faith and who, because of strikes or others reasons, are not able to move in before that date, I have extended the eligibility period until December 31.

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POST OFFICE

PROPOSAL TO ALLOW PRIVATE CARRIERS TO DELIVER MAIL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. Can the Postmaster General inform the House if he has any plans to allow private carriers to deliver first class mail, any other sort of mail or parcels during the Post Office strike, and would he consider initiating discussions with the Air Industries Association and the Canadian Truckers Association, to assure that the fullest possible use is made of alternative delivery services in the absence of regular postal service?

● (1450)

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Other than first class mail, there is no limitation on competition. As the hon. member knows, many private couriers are delivering mail at this very moment. The only limitation is the statutory one on first class mail and its removal would require legislation.

Mr. McKenzie: The minister did not answer my question. Would he consider meeting with these associations? I spoke with them this morning. They would be willing to sit down with the hon. gentleman and discuss alternate ways of delivering mail.

Mr. Mackasey: I am aware of the representations but I think it is a little premature to be encouraging our competition. I appreciate the hon. member's representation but I would point out once again that under the law we did not lock anybody out; they walked out on their own. There may be a moment when we shall have to do just that very thing, but I hope not.