

Oral Questions

According to the IWA, 75 per cent of accidents occur in non-union firms. There are no safety committees and WCB regulations are not followed. This situation has reached a critical stage and I call on the Minister of Forestry to use the powers given to him in clause 8 of the new forest department legislation to appoint a committee of workers, industry, government and compensation agencies to recommend measures to bring a halt to this carnage.

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[Translation]

COOPÉRATIVE D'HABITATION DES MOISSONS

Mr. Jean-Pierre Hogue (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to represent the Government of Canada this week at the official opening of the Coopérative des Moissons, a project for less advantaged families.

The Minister of State (Housing), the Hon. Member for Don Valley East (Mr. Redway), asked me to congratulate, on his behalf, all those who helped build this splendid, 22-unit project, and especially the members of the Coopérative d'habitation des Moissons.

Under the Non-Profit Housing Program, the Coopérative will receive financial assistance estimated at \$165,674 annually. This subsidy will be spread over a period of 35 years.

Furthermore, no cost mortgage insurance for the full amount of approved construction costs, namely \$1,347,742 was underwritten by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, this housing project is another splendid example of what can be accomplished when people and governments work together to build decent housing at affordable prices.

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LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, in answer to my question in the Official Languages Committee on Tuesday October 31, the Chief Statistician of Canada said that Statistics Canada was not sure whether language would be included in the short form during the 1991 Census.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable, considering the importance of this kind of information in connection with section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms which deals with the right to be educated in the minority language where numbers warrant. If we have to count these numbers, we should count them properly.

Furthermore, such a decision would jeopardise implementation of new regulations arising from the Official Languages Act, to establish significant demand, which I hope will soon be determined on by the Government.

Mr. Speaker, Statistics Canada should change its position and reverse a decision that will be harmful to language minorities across the country, both in and outside Québec.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

MEMBER OF THE SENATE

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I regret the absence of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion who has a lot to answer for. In his absence, I want to ask the Acting Prime Minister about statements made by that minister outside the House yesterday.

The minister contradicted what he had been saying in the House and what his officials had been saying and, in effect, substantiated what we have been saying about Senator Cogger's involvement with the Federal Business Development Bank.

On October 31, 1989, an official of the bank told the Canadian Press that the bank never did deal with Senator Cogger directly. In this very House on November 1, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion said about that matter:

Was there anything irregular? There was nothing irregular.

Now we know there was. As the minister himself indicated outside the House, Senator Cogger did work for the law firm for the bank.

When did this fact come to the attention of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and why did he not do the honourable and proper thing and come