

*Oral Questions***CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION**

RRAP—FUNDING FOR PROGRAM IN CAPE BRETON

While I am on my feet I would like the hon. gentleman to pass on to his Leader the results of a recent poll which show that 46 per cent of union members favoured the free trade agreement with the United States versus 38 per cent who did not. Of Conservative supporters, 66 per cent were in favour; of Liberals, 48 per cent were in favour; and of New Democrats, 41 per cent were in favour. However, union members are more intelligent than New Democrats and 46 per cent of them favoured the free trade agreement.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, union members, like other Canadians, are interested in honest and open government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

FILM DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have here another memo from Jack Valenti's group which says:

—Canada pledged to the U.S. negotiators it would try to "accommodate" the U.S. film industry outside the Agreement.

It then mentions the licensing provisions for films, exactly what Canada has done.

Why is the Prime Minister not being honest and straightforward with Canadian people, including the workers, as to why in fact cultural industries were not excluded from the free trade deal and why the Government has made a secret agreement with the American film industry?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, every day I am amazed that members of the NDP have to rely on people in the American film industry for their quotes.

Mr. Broadbent: Because you don't give us the truth.

Miss MacDonald: Now they are busy quoting Jack Valenti. I would much sooner quote Canadians who are involved in this industry.

For instance, Connie Tadros, the editor of *Cinema Canada*, said that the impact of the legislation will be the creation of a separate domestic market. She says that the new policy puts Canadian distributors on an equal footing for the first time.

Barry Young, the President of the Spectra film distribution company in Toronto, said that "it strengthens our hand". Garth Drabinsky said that this means "improved days for Canadian distribution".

We are talking about Canadian spokespersons.

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Cape Breton has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country and its homes are among the oldest in the country. Yet, the Government, in its 1988 budget for the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program, has cut the RRAP for Cape Breton by over 50 per cent.

A lot of homes will not be able to pass inspection in a few years and people are going to be forced to leave their own homes. Why is the Government forcing people out of their homes? Why does it not reconsider this reduction and at least reinstate the amount of RRAP funding which existed in 1987?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the Hon. Member that in its 1987 budget CMHC added \$100 million of additional funding for social housing for people who are very much in need. All of the Government's housing budget is directed to those most in need.

In co-operation with the provinces we have been able to help 30 per cent more of those most in need than did the previous Government, and that includes the RRAP program.

Mr. MacLellan: Mr. Speaker, have the Hon. Minister tell that to the people who are sleeping in alley-ways and on park benches, and who are living in substandard conditions in this country.

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, when is the Government going to wake up and realize that to give assistance to homeowners to maintain the standard of their homes is a lot cheaper than building new homes? It is not only good economic sense but good social sense and common decency. Will the Government reinstate this RRAP funding for 1988 or not?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the facts will answer my hon. friend. Last year, 1987, there were a record 245,000 housing starts in Canada. That was an increase over the previous year, in which there was also an increase over its previous year.

Last year 50,000 units of social housing were added to the complement of more than 100,000 the year before. The present Government has done more to help people in need of housing than has any previous Government.