

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Winkler: Inasmuch as the minister says that he will take notice, will he re-assess the government's position in this matter?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): I said I would take notice of the question.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the statement of the Minister of Industry the other day to the effect that the Chapman report was the basis upon which the government decided not to continue its financial contributions, could I ask the Acting Prime Minister, or the Minister of Industry, if it is not true that the Chapman report suggested that there is a place for the HARP project? Also, will not the government reconsider its position on that basis?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I said that the Chapman report formed the basis of ceasing government support for the HARP program. It might interest the hon. member to know that just about one year ago there was a long and I think fruitful discussion with the principal of McGill University and members of his staff regarding the future of HARP. Assurances were received from the university and the principal officers of this project that by June of 1967 the HARP program could be completely self-supporting, without further assistance from the government of Canada. On this basis it was agreed with McGill University that there would be no further support from the federal government for the HARP project, as such.

The federal government and its agencies would, however, continue to provide financial assistance to those particular aspects of the HARP program which were of interest to Canadian science and scientists. This undertaking, this readiness to support aspects of the HARP program which will be fruitful and useful to Canadian science is being and will be continued.

An hon. Member: Good luck.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I regret to have to interrupt the hon. minister, but his answer is more in the nature of a statement, and cannot continue.

Mr. Winkler: A supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister seems to know about this question, may I ask him whether he is aware that the additional aid will come from the external aid program of another country?

Mr. Drury: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Drury: I think the hon. member is misinformed.

HOUSING**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, referring to Canada's current housing shortage crisis the Minister of Labour said yesterday that the cross-country symposia and study group sessions have now been terminated, as is confirmed by press reports. In view of this I would ask the Acting Prime Minister whether the government is now considering announcing new housing measures to stimulate house building in time to affect spring housing starts. In other words are measures now being considered in time to affect new spring housing starts, to fulfil the demands of hundreds of thousands of Canadians now looking for a roof over their heads.

Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time the government, through the Minister of Labour in charge of housing, will make an announcement showing that the government has been giving this and other matters having to do with housing active consideration.

Mr. Graffey: A supplementary question. I asked whether the government is considering making an announcement which would affect spring housing starts. There is a certain degree of urgency here.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's second question is substantially the same as his first question.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON FOREIGN POLICY**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Winnipeg South Centre): My question is for the Acting Prime Minister in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs. I am sure he will be glad to answer without looking pitifully to the Speaker for protection. I intend to use his own words, words the minister used in the other place this morning when speaking on external affairs.