

sary arrangements for members of the Progressive Conservative housing committee to attend as observers?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the conference is a conference between governments and hon. members opposite are not the government.

An hon. Member: Not yet.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE—STAFF INVOLVED IN MAKING PREPARATIONS

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the well known rivalry between officials in your ministry and officials of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Stevens: —would the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member please resume his seat. Questions should be directed to the Chair. Hon. members should not put questions to a minister directly but should address themselves to the Chair. I make this remark for the benefit of all hon. members. Perhaps we should keep that in mind when posing questions.

Mr. Stevens: Would the minister inform the House whether he has relied mainly upon the staff of his own ministry or upon the staff of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in making preparations for the forthcoming conference?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt that such a question can be asked at this time. This is debate, and I have serious doubts. We could go on for a long time with questions of this kind.

POSSIBLE REGIONAL TRI-LEVEL CONFERENCES—PAYMENT OF COST

Mr. John Harney (Scarborough West): I have a supplementary question for the minister, Mr. Speaker, concerning the matter of tri-level conferences. We are now talking about a conference which ought properly to be a tri-level one. Can the minister inform the House whether the first large tri-level conference held last fall, which was supposed to act as a kind of broody hen for further regional tri-level conferences, has indeed brought forth this kind of issue? Are such conferences now planned, if so, how many, and does the government propose to help support the cost of these conferences?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, for the conference held in Toronto the government bore and for future ones will bear a very substantial portion of the cost. I will be attending a planning meeting in Halifax in two weeks time to organize a second national tri-level meeting. I have had discussions in Toronto with the former provincial treasurer, Mr. MacNaughton, about plans for an Ontario regional tri-level conference, but to date that is the only province which has

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indicated a desire to hold such a regional conference. I stand ready to participate in the organization of conferences in the other four regions.

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE—AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ACT TO PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Has the minister made available, or will he do so before next Monday's federal-provincial conference on housing, to provincial government representatives his proposed amendments to the National Housing Act and the mortgage financing legislation?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, an outline of the proposals will be given to provincial delegates. This will not be the precise bill because parliament would be entitled to the bill first, but the proposals that the government will be putting forward—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

PURCHASE OF LAND TO ESTABLISH LAND BANKS

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Peel South): I have a supplementary question for the same minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact the lack of serviced land is clearly at the root of the housing problem and in view of the fact the minister has appropriated \$500 million over five years—and I was going to say that is supposed to be a drop in the bucket but maybe it is only a fifth of a drop—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the hon. member ask the question?

Mr. Blenkarn: Will the minister advise the House to which city of or cities in Canada he will be allocating this \$100 million per annum?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again, I have doubts about a question such as this. I have noticed that some of the answers given by the minister have been rather long but perhaps they have had to be in light of the questions that have been asked. If the minister replied to a question such as this one I think he would be giving a statement which normally ought to be made on motions. The hon. member might like to rephrase the question.

• (1130)

Mr. Blenkarn: Mr. Speaker, will the government be buying land in and around metropolitan Toronto, land that the hon. member for York South has said is owned by large corporations, sometimes referred to as "bums".

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we will be allocating very substantial increases in funds for land assembly and new communities. The location of the land to be purchased is a matter for consultation in a co-operative way with provincial and local governments.