

Oral Questions

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. In view of the minister's desire to encourage the production of farm products, and in view of his boasted success with regard to encouraging manufacturing production by this technique, is he prepared to apply this technique to encourage the production of farm products?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I think it is implicit and explicit in the Prime Minister's statement of Tuesday that we are encouraging the production of food. The hon. gentleman is right, maximizing supply is one of the ways to beat the world commodity problem at the moment. By putting a floor under the price of wheat and instituting discussions with the provinces to stabilize farm prices, we will do more to encourage that than anything the hon. member suggests.

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HOUSING**MALVERN, ONTARIO, DEVELOPMENT—REDUCTION AND HOLDING OF MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Reg Stackhouse (Scarborough East): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of State for Urban Affairs I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the proposal by the minister in charge of the Ontario Housing Corporation to match any reduction by the federal government of interest rates on mortgages in the next phase of the Malvern development so that interest rates there may be held at a maximum of 8.75 per cent, will the Prime Minister inform the House whether he has received information from the Ontario government to that effect and, if so, what will be the response of the federal government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I apologize. As the hon. member only indicated that the question was for me in the dying words of the question, I will take notice of it and try to answer on another day.

Mr. Stackhouse: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I indicated in the preamble to my question—if the Prime Minister is listening now, as he was not then—that I was addressing my question to him in the absence of the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Perhaps I may repeat the question. In view of the proposal by the minister in charge of the Ontario Housing Corporation to match any reduction by the federal government of interest rates on mortgages for the next phase of the Malvern development so that interest rates there may be held at a maximum 8.75 per cent, and the advocacy of that minister that interest rates for public housing be held at that level, would the Prime Minister inform the House whether the federal government has received any information from the Ontario government to this effect and, if so, what will be the response of the federal government?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I will inquire.

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

MANPOWER**LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT TO CLARIFY GUIDELINES OF NEW PROGRAM**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the recent announcement of the new Local Initiatives Program, would the minister make a statement on motions to clarify the guidelines in view of the fact that there are some confusing interpretations of the program?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I hoped that the letter I sent, with all the kits and material, to all hon. members had clarified that matter, but I shall most certainly give that request and recommendation my consideration.

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IMMIGRATION**IMMIGRANT ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT**

Mr. Peter Stollery (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration concerns the immigrant adjustment program which has been in operation for some three weeks. Can the minister inform the House of the success of the program and give some idea of the number of people who have applied to have their status adjusted?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Unless the minister can reply briefly, I would suggest to the hon. member that this is the kind of question which could be asked at the time of adjournment. The hon. member is asking for general information from the minister, and such a statement should be made on motions. If there is urgency, the question could be considered this evening at the time of adjournment.

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[Translation]

PUBLIC SERVICE**ALLEGED REFUSAL OF TREASURY BOARD TO MEET VETERINARIANS—MINISTERS' POSITION**

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the President of the Treasury Board.

Since the collective agreement of federal veterinarians working in Quebec expired June last, can the minister say whether it is true that the Treasury Board is refusing them any increase and if such is the case, does he intend to meet personally the veterinarians involved in order to avoid any action affecting meat inspection and control of animal diseases in Quebec?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that the government does not expect any interruption of meat inspection. Negotiations are under way and I feel that they are progressing rather satisfactorily. As I have always main-