

*Oral Questions*

cent interest rate, and more recently the rate has increased to 11½ per cent, will the minister inform the House as to the average effective rate of these mortgages?

**Mr. Danson:** Mr. Speaker, I do not quite get the precise intent of the question, but I will check what the average rate might work out to. This is a matter of rather important concern and I will try and get the hon. member an answer.

**Mr. Orlikow:** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the statement made by the president of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation that the government will intervene next year if housing starts drop below 200,000 units for the year, does this statement represent a shift from previously announced government policy of completing 250,000 housing units per year?

**Mr. Danson:** Mr. Speaker, the government is always intervening in the housing market, but there has been no shift in policy. Our policy has been to follow the guidance of the Economic Council of Canada and try to produce one million houses every five years. We have exceeded that by some 250,000 houses, and that is almost double the rate. This housing policy will continue.

● (1150)

**ALLEGATION QUALIFIED APPLICANTS REFUSED LOANS BY  
CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION**

**Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the same minister which results from the fact that constituents have complained to me that although they have qualified for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation funds the corporation has informed them there is no money available. Why is that?

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I would have to consider individual cases, but I should like to know about the specific one to which the hon. member referred. It is true that in respect of AHOP, if that is what the hon. member is referring to, funds are being rapidly used up, which proves the great success of this excellent program that was introduced by my predecessor.

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**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

**ENTITLEMENT OF TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES AT TAXATION  
DATA CENTRE TO BENEFITS—HIRING OF STUDENTS AND  
HOUSEWIVES RATHER THAN THOSE DRAWING BENEFITS**

**Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration I would ask the Minister of National Revenue whether the more than 1,000 keypunch operators employed in Ottawa at the Taxation Data Centre during the peak four or five months each year are entitled to receive unemployment insurance benefits after being laid off from these seasonal jobs?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I will make an inquiry into that situation.

[Mr. Orlikow.]

**Mr. Clarke (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister would also inquire as to why the Public Service of Canada is directing its advertising campaign for keypunch operators to housewives and students with no experience instead of hiring from the ranks of others who are already drawing unemployment insurance benefits?

**Mr. Basford:** Mr. Speaker, in order to obtain technicians we are hiring them from wherever they can possibly be obtained.

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**FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**

**POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSIONS ON  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS—CONSULTATIONS WITH  
PROVINCES**

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, it seems the Prime Minister has disappeared momentarily and I do not know whether he is allowed to answer by long distance, but my question has to do with his remarks during the Throne Speech debate regarding the establishment of an acceptable amending formula which would allow us to deal with our constitution domestically. Has he conveyed this sentiment to the provinces, or discussed with them the procedures of an earlier conference that broke off two or three years ago in Victoria? Can he tell the House what steps will now be taken to achieve this desirable end?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Not at this time, Mr. Speaker. There are to be consultations which will be on a bilateral basis with the various provinces. There will be no public occasion in the immediate future at which that matter will be discussed.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, in light of the importance of this to all Canadians is the Prime Minister prepared to tell the House what proposals he will put forward to the provinces in order that Canadians might understand and accept those procedures to be followed in this regard? In addition, and in light of the difficulties at Victoria, does the Prime Minister propose to place any amendment on the table for the provinces to consider?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, and as I indicated in my speech on leaders' day, these discussions have been going on since 1926 and there are literally thousands of proposals and variations which can be discussed. My mind is open to any of them. At this stage I have indicated that discussions will be bilateral. These discussions will probably take place over quite a period of time before I will be in a position to indicate what the general direction will be, and that will eventually be made public.