

Oral Questions

this stipulation in order that rural residents can have the same opportunity as urban dwellers to receiving government funding for housing?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, without accepting the full premise of the hon. member's question, there were some 40,000 CMHC loans made in rural areas in the past year. The majority of those were on properties with septic tanks. As to the substance of the question, the policy has been reviewed by CMHC. I am preparing a release for all members so that they will know the new status. Greater flexibility will be granted. There will be close co-operation with the provinces to establish more flexible guidelines for rural areas, rural communities and fringe areas of urban communities where the health standards of the province are met and undesirable development does not result.

RURAL AND NATIVE HOUSING PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE PROGRAM COVERS EVERY CONSTITUENCY

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Can the minister assure the House that the program for rural and native housing does in fact cover every federal constituency in Canada?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot give that assurance. I do not think it applies to Toronto-Davenport or downtown Halifax. However, in those areas which are designated by the provinces as being eligible under those programs, it will apply. In most cases, rural constituencies will be eligible if an agreement is reached with the province. It is a matter of priorities established in co-operation with the provinces, which we enjoy in great measure.

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AGRICULTURE

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL IN EUROPE RECEIVE CANADIAN BEEF

Mr. Ken Hurlburt (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture. In light of the fact that questions directed to the Minister of Supply and Services and the Minister of National Defence in order to ascertain whether the Canadian armed forces in Europe are eating Canadian beef have received non-committal answers, will the minister tell the House whether armed services personnel in Europe are eating Canadian beef?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, all I know is having eaten beef at the station in Europe once or twice, it was high quality, excellent beef.

Mr. Hurlburt: Will the minister inform the House whether the 707 trips to Lahr each week with cargo space for Canadian beef are being by-passed and we are buying our beef from the United States government?

[Mr. Darling.]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I understand that certain meat is bought in different countries at different times. We buy high quality meat for the Canadian bases. At that time, a lot of it was coming from Denmark.

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CRIMINAL CODE

POSSIBILITY OF AMENDMENTS TO PROVIDE MORE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF GUNS

Mr. Ross Milne (Peel-Dufferin-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Justice assure the House that, contrary to the published press reports to the effect that the tragic shootings in Brampton will not result in stricter gun control legislation, he will in fact evaluate and support reasonable proposals for more effective gun control and also evaluate possible amendments to the Criminal Code to increase penalties for crimes involving guns?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, we are always searching for ways of creating more order and control with regard to breaches of the law in this country or with regard to matters such as those to which the hon. member has just referred. It is not often recognized that we, in fact, have quite stringent gun control laws in this country with regard to restricted and prohibited weapons. We will certainly be looking at whether stiffer penalties or better procedures are in fact reasonable. It is a problem whether or not registration systems accomplish very much by themselves. It has been my stated view that we want to be sure they in fact do that and not simply impose unnecessary red tape upon the citizens of this country.

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THE BUDGET

POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF DATE OF PRESENTATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. Is consideration being given to postponing the presentation of the budget from June 23 to mid-July, and is the reason for this the necessity of having a first ministers' meeting and the problem of scheduling such a meeting?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

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ENERGY

POSSIBILITY OF MEETING WITH PROVINCES TO DETERMINE PRICE OF CRUDE OIL

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Last week I asked the Acting Prime Minister whether a meeting of the first ministers would be held in June to determine the question of the price of crude oil in Canada. The Acting Prime Minister indicated there was some desirability in